



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,711

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 1998

(IR50p) 45p

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
**INSIDE: THE ONLY
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES**

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW
**How Britain's
getting stuffed**

THE RESTAURANT REVOLUTION

**Nose jobs
for the boys**

HEALTH, PLUS & MEDIA



Hague takes on his euro critics

IN HIS MOST decisive act since becoming Tory leader, William Hague announced yesterday that the party's 300,000 members would be balloted later this month on the single European currency, saying the issue had "debilitated and divided our party for too long".

But pro-European Tories immediately vowed to continue their campaign for Britain to join the single currency, whatever the outcome of the ballot.

A decisive majority is expected to support Mr Hague's policy of opposing British membership in this Parliament and the next. The result will be an-

ounced on the eve of next month's Tory conference, which had looked certain to be overshadowed by the party's civil war over Europe. The leadership feared a plot to hijack the event by pro-Europeans, who said last night that the referendum "smacked of panic".

Although Mr Hague's surprise move may ensure a less troublesome week in Bournemouth, his hopes of drawing a line under the issue that has bedevilled his party were dashed

when Kenneth Clarke, champion of the Tory Eurosceptics, made clear he would not be

campaign before the ballot – adding that any leader was bound to win a good majority in such a vote of confidence.

However, Mr Hague insisted: "As long as our party is distracted by the endless debates on the single currency, we will always have one hand tied behind our back as we fight this Government."

He said the issue was one of the largest contributors to last year's crushing general election defeat, and the party still suffered from continuous media reports of divisions. Its members were "sick and tired"

of the way different internal groups had tried to "pull polity one way or the other".

Denying that he was making a plea for unity, Mr Hague de-

clared: "I believe that unity comes through leading, not pleading. I believe it comes through consistency, through clarity, through certainty."

Last night, close allies likened Mr Hague's move to the decisive leadership shown by Margaret Thatcher as prime minister and to Tony Blair's decision to scrap Clause IV in 1991. "The crucial thing is that they were strong leaders and people knew clearly where the party stood, even though a minority opposed them," one senior Tory said. "We lost that clarity under John Major because the divisions on Europe

went right up to the cabinet."

Mr Hague said all frontbenchers would have to support his policy during the referendum campaign or face the sack, but MPs would not lose the party whip if they supported the single currency in Parliament.

"It is not about driving people out of the party," he said.

This freedom was seized on

by Mr Clarke and other pro-Europeans, who vowed to continue to state that Britain should join the single currency in the next Parliament, if it was in the national interest.

Stephen Dorrell, a former cabinet minister, said: "Frankly,

I don't think this will resolve anything because these are important issues of principle."

Ian Taylor, who resigned from the Tory front bench last autumn over the party's policy on Europe, warned: "This might appear to boost William Hague's leadership and the party will obviously endorse the leader."

"But since the single currency issue will be determined by events beyond his control, it will not boost his leadership as far as the country as a whole is concerned."

Leading article, Review, page 3

Scientists demand BSE tests for sheep

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THOUSANDS of sheep are to be tested for "mad cow" disease under recommendations to be considered by senior government advisers who are concerned about the possibility of BSE passing from cattle to sheep.

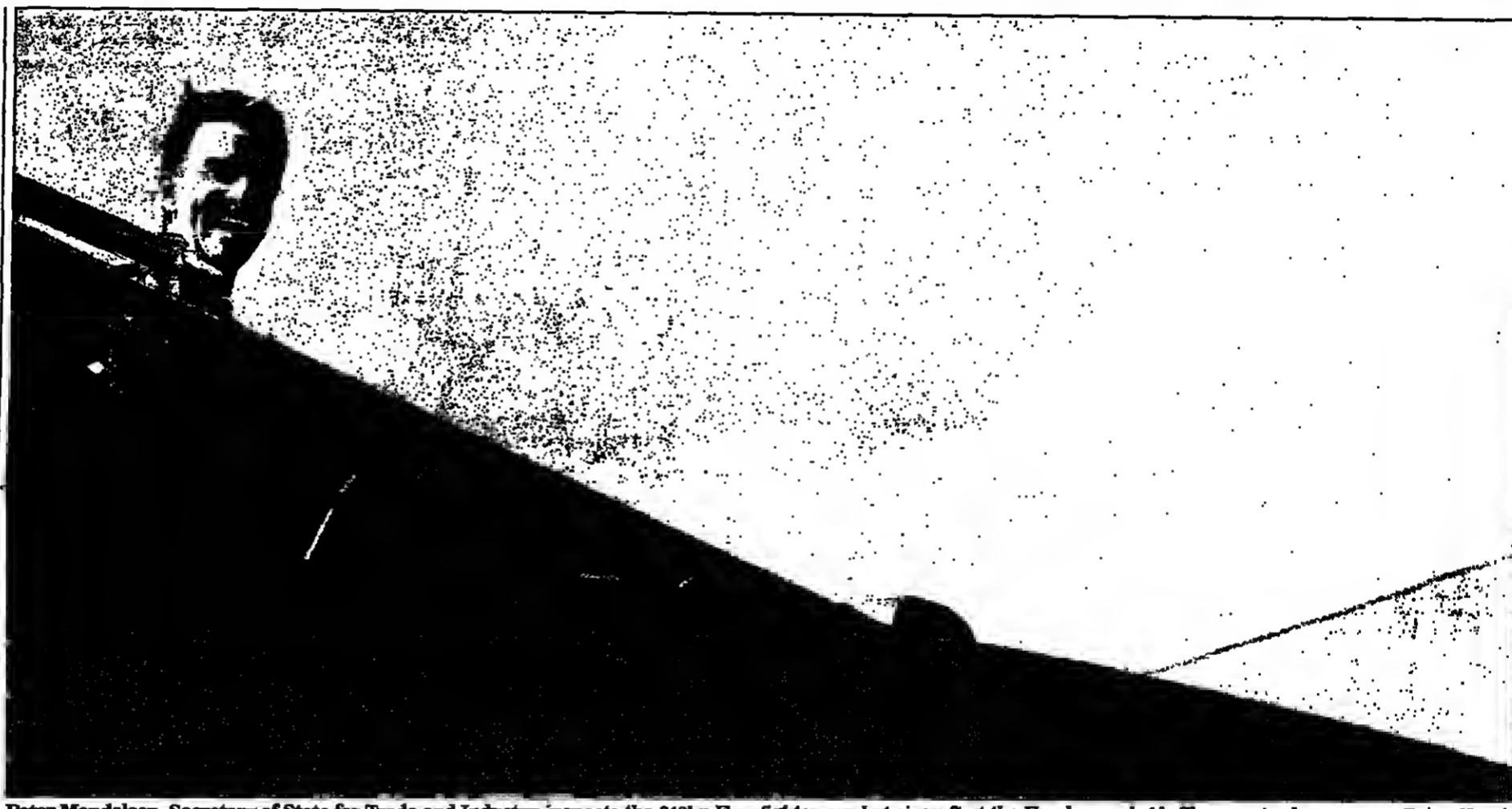
An intensive effort to try to assess the scale of the problem will be discussed at a meeting later this month of a committee of experts who have been given the responsibility of investigating the likely risk to human health.

Up to now only nine sheep out of an adult breeding flock of more than 20 million animals have been tested for BSE and scientists are worried that not enough is being done to see whether the disease was passed to sheep during the 1980s when they were fed the remains of BSE-infected cattle.

Scientists have known for some time that there is more than a theoretical risk of BSE infecting sheep. Experiments have shown that sheep fed on material from BSE-infected cattle can develop the disease and that although the symptoms are similar to scrapie – a natural disease of sheep – laboratory tests show the infective agent is identical to BSE.

The concern is that sheep farmers may not have noticed BSE in their flocks because it looks so much like scrapie, yet BSE is now known to be the cause of new-variant CJD in humans, which has so far affected 27 people.

The issue was raised yesterday by Professor Jeffrey



Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, inspects the £40bn Eurofighter combat aircraft at the Farnborough Air Show yesterday

Brian Harris

'People will burn Russia down' says rejected PM

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN faces one of the most difficult decisions of his turbulent career today – whether to end the two-week political limbo in his unstable and suffering country by producing another candidate for prime minister or to carry on battling with parliament.

Smarting after another defeat at the hands of the State Duma, which yesterday refused for a second time to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as premier, the President must now decide whether he can afford to waste more time with

out a government while the country slumps further into economic misery.

Despite an evaporating rule, and despite lengthening queues and emptying shelves nationwide, even in wealthy Moscow, the Duma decided to take its confrontation with the Kremlin down to the wire, by rejecting Mr Chernomyrdin by a decisive 273-138 votes.

In doing so, the Duma ignored pleas by Mr Chernomyrdin to act quickly before the situation worsens. "Only in Indonesia did they reach the point where they burnt down the entire country," he told delegates just before the vote.

"They burnt down the whole country. That is where we are headed. That is what you are appealing for. That is where you want us to go."

Last night, presidential sources hinted that the President would resubmit Mr Chernomyrdin for a third, final vote.

That may be rhetoric. He may be persuaded to call a truce with

his opponents, who argue that the former Gazprom boss has been tainted by six painful years as premier, a period marked by massive corruption, a withering economy and worsening living standards. If he does, Mr Yeltsin will offer a compromise candidate, reversing an early announcement that he "insists" Mr Chernomyrdin should head his government.

The Liberal Yabloko party came out in favour of Yevgeny Primakov, 68, Russia's experienced Foreign Minister.

At the edge, page 11

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Global alert for undetectable black cocaine

BY PHIL DAVIDSON
Latin America Correspondent

COLOMBIAN DRUG smugglers have tried most tricks to get their product out of the country. They have mixed it into coffee sacks, dissolved it in bottles of whisky and shampoo, paid couriers to swallow it in plastic bags for later excretion, even encouraged women to hide it in their private parts.

Now, Colombian police are faced with a new smuggling gambit, the use of "coca negra", or black cocaine. Typically, the

mixture is made up of pure cocaine (40 per cent) with cobalt and ferric chloride, which is said to make the lucrative drug undetectable even by highly trained sniffer dogs.

Colombian police seized their first shipment of black cocaine last May – more than 250lb in two containers, bound for Italy from El Dorado airport in

Bogota. Documented as bubblegum, the container passed the police dogs unnoticed and the drugs were uncovered only because police were already suspicious of the Colombian exporters.

Black cocaine is transformed back to the familiar white powder by being passed through solvents such as acetone or ether. It has recently been found in police raids in Germany, the Netherlands and

Albania, all in packages originating from the same exporters, a Colombian police spokesman said.

Klaus Nyholm, the director of the United Nations drug control programme in Colombia, said his office had alerted the country's police a few months earlier to watch out for the black cocaine after UN officials in Asia found heroin smugglers using a similar technique.

"We had heard reports of it

but I never really thought black cocaine existed," Colombia's police chief Roso Jose Serrano, said. "What this shows is that, for good or bad, Colombians have a boundless imagination."

The Brussels-based Customs Co-operation Council put out an alert for black cocaine to member countries several months ago and, although the shipments seem to pass by the sniffer dogs, customs agents are confident that the latest

ruse is just a temporary advantage by the smugglers.

"Stopping drugs is also about intelligence work and risk assessment," said Douglas Tweedie, head of enforcement at the council. "And dogs are of limited use anyway because their noses get saturated quickly. What this shows is how innovative the drug smugglers are, but we have already alerted our network and hope to prevent it becoming a problem."

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Pressure mounted on the IRA to reveal the graves of victims it had abducted and killed with bereaved families opening a hotline for information. Page 4

Paedophile agrees release deal

A dangerous paedophile due for release next week has indicated he is prepared to be locked up rather than return to a village where he abused children for 30 years. Page 5

British smoking deaths halved

Britain has led the world by halving smoking-related deaths in the past 25 years, mirroring a drop in tobacco consumption, according to new research. Page 8

FOREIGN NEWS

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Europe criticised over Kosovo

A senior EU official fuelled a transatlantic dispute over the world's response to the crisis in Kosovo by backing American criticism of European inaction. Page 9

Second crash black box located

The Canadian navy is confident it has detected the signal from Swissair flight 111's second black box, the cockpit voice recorder. Page 10

BUSINESS NEWS

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Brown calls off oil tax reform

Gordon Brown has bowed to pressure from the oil industry and dropped plans to raise up to £3bn by tightening the North Sea tax regime. Page 12

SPORTS NEWS

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Jacklin attacks Ryder choice

Tony Jacklin has spoken out against the appointment of Mark James as Europe's new Ryder Cup captain. Page 20

Ince defends behaviour abroad

Paul Ince, the England midfielder, has defended his conduct after being sent off against Sweden. Page 24

TUESDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David Aaronovitch

"Infidelity seems to be both the most interesting and the most threatening of domestic crimes, involving intricate deception and the dilation of valid passion with the nasty fluids of calculation." Page 4

Rupert Cornwell

"Kosovo is merely proving anew what Bosnia long since proved – that the only language Mr Milosevic understands is the imminent or actual use of force." Page 5

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 24



Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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Lobby firm faces boycott by unions

By PAUL WAUGH

TRADE UNIONS yesterday threatened to boycott a firm that was revealed to be working to undermine the Government's Fairness at Work proposals.

Sources within the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union (MSF) said that the company,

continued with that," he said. A spokesman said: "If they have been involved with this document that argues against the legislation, then we would not be able to work with a company that did that."

A source within the T&G was even more strident in his condemnation of the firm. "We wouldn't touch them with a barge pole and neither would any other union within the TUC, if they did this sort of thing. What union in its right mind would take on a firm that actively lobbied against a piece of legislation that was likely to improve the rights of union members?"

A paper by Ben Lucas, 36, a former member of Mr Blair's team during the general election campaign, argued that News International's strategy should be to build cross-party opposition to the legislation.

He claimed that any campaign should be aimed at those in the 18- to 35-year-olds who are more likely to be employees who want to negotiate their own pay and not have a union interfere in their affairs.

News International has confirmed that LLM has been hired, but claimed that the company has simply been monitoring events and gathering intelligence rather than directing strategy.

LLM is also advising News International on the forthcoming Competition Bill on media ownership and predatorial pricing.

The lobbying firm has been hired to counter opposition from the House of Lords, which threw out the Bill in July because of its failure to tackle Mr Murdoch's tactic of pricing rival newspapers out of the market.

LLM had been hired by MSF to conduct research work in the past year, though the union stresses that it had no role in directing policy.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of MSF, said yesterday that he was reviewing the position of the union over any future decisions to hire the firm.

"I am consulting with colleagues over whether we should tell them we don't think it will help them in any way if they lobby against the Fairness at Work proposals. It is certainly not in their interests to

smash in the face repeatedly with a blunt instrument, carefully trussed up like a joint of beef, the mother-of-three, who was still in her frilly nightdress, was meticulously covered in plastic and canvas, weighted down with metal piping and dumped in the deepest



The Prime Minister's wife, Cherie Booth, patron of Breast Cancer Care, launching a national campaign to 'Be enlightened not frightened' in London yesterday. John Woods

Blair remains firm on economy

BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND PAUL WAUGH

TONY BLAIR yesterday brushed aside demands for a change of economic policy to meet growing concerns about manufacturing industry.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman, speaking before union leaders met him at 10 Downing Street, insisted that the "fundamentals of the economy are sound".

He said that the Government's decision to "take the politics out of interest rates" had been correct and that ministers would not rein back the independence of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee.

Mr Blair's aides said that union leaders who attacked the Government's economic policy should compare its record with that of the Conservatives in the early 1990s, when interest rates were 15 per cent and inflation 10 per cent.

Mr Blair later told employers' leaders that he understood business concerns, but that the Government's priority remained long-term stability, and that required a disciplined policy toward inflation.

Union leaders leaving the meeting in Downing Street last night made clear that they had got little change out of the Prime Minister.

John Monks, TUC leader, who was head of the union delegation, said: "He was forthright in his views and we were forthright in ours."

The clear difference of opinion means that the economy is likely to be the main issue at next week's TUC Congress and two weeks later at the Labour Party's assembly.

Anxiety over manufacturing was brought home to Mr Blair at the end of last week when Fujitsu, the electronics company, announced the closure of its plant in the Prime Minister's Sedgefield constituency with the loss of more than 600 jobs.

After the meeting, Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said the Prime Minister gave the TUC delegation the impression that employees' representatives were attempting to talk the economy into recession.

"I suppose you would say he gave us a bollocking in a nice kind of way," he said.

Mr Jackson said that the unions' message to Mr Blair was that 250,000 jobs were at risk unless there was immediate action.

News Analysis, page 13

Vicious attacker killed the 'Lady of the Lake'

By GARY FINN

CAROL PARK, the "Lady of the Lake" murder victim whose body was found at the bottom of Coniston Water in the Lake District 21 years after she disappeared from home, was unlawfully killed, an inquest decided yesterday.

Ian Smith, coroner, recorded the verdict after a one-day hearing in Barrow-in-Furness that saw her former husband – and, at one time, murder suspect – Gordon Park tell of the last moment he saw her alive.

In recording his verdict Mr Smith said the 30-year-old primary school teacher had been the victim of a "nasty and vicious attack" in which she had knowingly tried to defend herself.

Mr Smith said of the uncaught killer: "If this person is still alive, which 20-odd years later they might not be, I hope they have a conscience and I hope that conscience is troubling them."

Smashed in the face repeatedly with a blunt instrument, carefully trussed up like a joint of beef, the mother-of-three, who was still in her frilly nightdress, was meticulously covered in plastic and canvas, weighted down with metal piping and dumped in the deepest

part of Coniston Water. Police arrested Mr Park and charged him with her murder but proceedings collapsed because of "insufficient evidence".

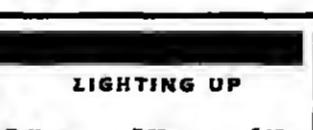
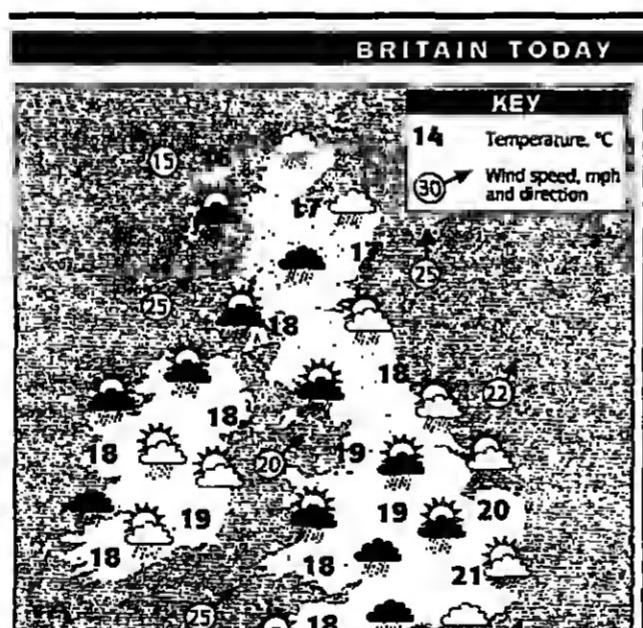
Mr Park told the inquest how he last saw his wife alive and well when he left to take their children on a day trip to Blackpool.

He said he later arrived home to find their house locked, his wife's engagement and wedding rings on a bedside table – but no sign of her.

He said his wife had left him previously and there had been a custody battle over their three children, but they had got back together again before her disappearance in July 1976.

The coroner asked Mr Park if he recalled where his wife was when he left to drive the children to Blackpool.

Mr Park replied: "Yes – in bed." He added after a pause: "Alive and well."



WEATHERLINE

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Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

Last quarter: Sept 13

Sun rises: 06.24

Moon rises: 20.47

Moon sets: 09.43

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Moon

'If we found BSE in sheep it would be a national emergency'. Official.

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a damage limitation exercise to quell fears over the possibility that British sheep might have become infected with BSE.

Government press officers have been issued with a set of 16 questions and answers to rebut claims that British lamb is unsafe to eat, and that not enough is being done to assess the risk of BSE entering the sheep population.

Such is the concern about another food scare that Government officials planned their rebuttal campaign last week when they became aware of a forthcoming article in the journal *Nature* which highlighted scientific fears over BSE in sheep.

A "restricted" memorandum issued last Wednesday by officials in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food warned other Whitehall departments to be on the alert for reaction to the *Nature* piece, and in particular criticism from Sheila McKechnie, head of the Consumers' Association, who expressed concern about feeding lamb to children.

"We have agreed the attached line to take," said the memo, circulated with the 16 questions and answers which press officers were warned not to stray from when handling press enquiries.

One question and answer stipulates how the issue of children should be dealt with: "The age range of new variant CJD does not suggest that those who were children at the time they were probably exposed to BSE infection were at any greater risk than those who were young adults ... infants and children were not likely to be more susceptible than adults."

It was only yesterday that the rebuttal campaign was needed: when *Evening Today's* *Burnning Today* interviewed Professor Jeffrey Almond, a member of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac), who expressed concerns about



The Government seems determined to bar some lines of questioning on fears that BSE may now be infecting sheep, and so be threatening people

Geoff Garrett

sheep and BSE. Professor Almond reiterated that BSE-infected material was fed to sheep in the 1980s; that it is possible to transmit BSE to sheep experimentally; and that BSE may go undetected in sheep because its symptoms are similar to scrapie, a natural disease of sheep.

"I think there is a distinct possibility that BSE is out there in the sheep population," he said. "But there are several

ways of viewing that. One is to say it's been out there all the time, and does not cause a problem because it doesn't transmit from sheep to humans."

If, on the other hand, it's

gone back into sheep from cows and is behaving somehow differently from scrapie, then that could pose a risk to humans. Of course we have to be concerned about that."

Professor Almond then

warned: "I think if we found

BSE in sheep it would be a national emergency, and I think politicians would have to think very hard about what the appropriate response would be."

Concern over the possibility

of BSE infecting sheep goes back to experiments in the early 1980s which showed that, when sheep are fed material derived from infected cattle, they can develop a brain disorder with scrapie-like symptoms. When scientists

injected pieces of sheep brain into laboratory mice they found it was identical to BSE. Scrapie is thought to be harmless to humans but BSE is known to cause new variant CJD.

The fear is that, if BSE in cattle poses a threat to human health, then BSE in sheep - if it is present to the national flock - may pose an equal threat. And as scrapie has become endemic by passing from one sheep to another, there are fears that

BSE in sheep could do the same thing, making it harder to eradicate than BSE in cattle.

The big question is whether

any sheep in commercial flocks

have ever contracted BSE. In July 1996 Seac decided that, even though the risk was only theoretical, action still had to be taken. It recommended the removal of sheep brains from the human food chain and urged the Government to increase its research effort into

the problem. In May 1997, Seac

extended the official ban to

include spinal cords, spleen

and mechanically recovered

sheep meat.

These measures did not

address the central problem

of whether BSE has infected

sheep in commercial flocks.

The main difficulty of assessing

this is that there is no simple

test for BSE - it takes up to two

years and many thousands of

pounds to look for BSE in sheep

brain by injecting material into different strains of lab mice.

So far only nine sheep in the national adult flock of 20 million have been tested for BSE in this way, and as Professor Almond said, "Having found zero out of nine, what confidence can we attach to the statement 'BSE is not present in sheep'". The answer is 'very little'. Absence of evidence is often confused with evidence of absence."

Yesterday, Government press officers kept to the wording of the official rebuttal: "There is no evidence to show that BSE has been transmitted to sheep through infected feed and, if so, whether it is still present in any commercial sheep flock. As any sheep infected through feed would almost certainly have been slaughtered by now, the disease would only be present today if some form of transmission had occurred."

Professor John Collinge, another member of Seac and head of the prion disease group at Imperial College School of Medicine in London, is struggling to develop a much simpler test for BSE.

He has complained that his faster and cheaper test is not receiving the support from the agricultural community and MAFF that it deserves. Government officials, however, insist that the Collinge test is receiving the highest priority.

"In fact we have put quite a lot of money into two research teams, one at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge and one at the Institute of Animal Health, Compton, who have both worked with Collinge to try to get his technique to work on sheep," said the MAFF memo.

Without a simple test that can distinguish BSE in sheep from scrapie, it will be virtually impossible to detect the disease if it is only present in a fraction of the national flock. However, even if only 0.1 per cent of the flock is affected by BSE, that would still represent thousands of infected animals.

"This problem is not going to go away easily. We are going to be tackling it for years to come," said one BSE scientist.

HIGH RISK

Eggs, bacon and tomato.

No one can forget what Edwina Currie did to eggs. The former health minister triggered the salmonella scare in the late 1980s, achieving at a stroke what years of health education never did: getting people to eat bacon & fried eggs for breakfast causing nitrates and tomatoes of the genetically engineered variety may not appeal.

Coffee with milk and artificial sweetener.

Addiction is the big worry with coffee - aside from fears about cancer and heart disease. Many cannot get through the day without their caffeine shot. Take it black, to cut the calories, and unsweetened to avoid cancer.

Burgers and chips, apple.

For those who believe BSE was dreamed up to stop the march of the Big Mac. Too late to give them up now - the damage was done in the late 1980s before controls on infected cattle were introduced. Chips are the bête noire of the healthy eating lobby, and apples sprayed with Aman, a cancer-causing pesticide, worry some.

Cream cakes.

Calorie-laden, artery clogging and delicious. Hence forbidden.

Cheese, ham, chocolate, crisps, unsweetened cheese.

For two years since the BSE scare broke, we have been making spaghetti bolognese with lamb mince only to discover that we may have been getting the wrong end of the stick from our source. Market veg have the pesticides, commercial gelatine the preservatives, and unpasteurised cheese harbours all manner of bugs.

LOW RISK

BREAKFAST



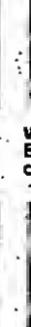
ELEVENSIES



LUNCH



TEA



DINNER



THE GOOD (AND BAD) FOOD GUIDE

Food scares can harm health

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

IT IS BECOMING difficult, in our risk averse society, to eat sensibly. Open the fridge and peril lurks on every shelf. If the salmonella in the eggs doesn't get you, the listeria in the cheese or the e coli in the pâté surely will.

Food scares happen with such regularity that to act on all of them would seriously damage your diet. What is often forgotten is the opportunity cost of

we know fat is bad for the heart. Thus in exchanging beef for lamb we may have avoided a tiny risk of succumbing to CJD (we still do not know how big) and replaced it with a substantially larger risk of succumbing to heart disease.

The importance of food scares is in keeping the food industry on their toes and conscious of what they are doing. It was complacency about production methods that led to the BSE epidemic. Complacency has led to the overuse of fertilisers and pesticides, preservatives and colourings, taste enhancers and fat modifiers.

The best advice for consumers is eat a balanced diet, with the emphasis on fresh rather than processed food, with plenty of fruit and vegetables - and not to panic.

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Things that go bonk in the night

By ROGER DORSON

COITAL NOISE Pollution, the intrusive sound of neighbours making love, can be bad for health, according to researchers.

While people are prepared to protest about loud stereos and other noises from next door, the sound of sex is a taboo subject about which few people are willing to complain, despite the stress it causes.

"You can forgive the squeaking and then the banging, but it's the Yes! Yes! Yes! that's really invasive," said one victim interviewed by the researchers at Cardiff University.

All those questioned by a team led by Dr Craig Gurney claimed to have heard the coital noises of neighbours. "This

noise was clearly distinctive and was always characterised by the description of moans or banging," said Dr Gurney, who will discuss his findings at a European housing research conference at the university.

"For these people the experience of overhearing coital noise was real. It had demonstrable effects upon their attitudes to their home and was contingent upon dwelling design and household type."

Many said the worst aspect was the moaning and shouting. "You try to pretend. You convince yourself that it's something else but as soon as the moaning starts that's it, the illusion is shattered. It's not the water pipe, it's the neighbours making love," said one of those questioned.

'Stop Murdoch Utd' campaign grows

A COALITION to stop Rupert Murdoch buying Manchester United Football Club started to form yesterday as fans, MPs and rival buyers looked to the Government to halt the takeover.

Meanwhile, Manchester United's board met yesterday afternoon to try to stave off one dissenting director who is believed to oppose the deal.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, confirmed that any bid for the club by British Sky Broadcasting would be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The Commons All-Party Football Group increased the pressure on Mr Mandelson with a demand that no decision be made on the takeover by without a Commons debate.

Fans are planning a protest at tomorrow night's home game against Charlton Athletic. Leaflets will be distributed

tions and force the Government to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Joe Ashton, chairman of the All-Party Football Group and a director of Sheffield Wednesday, called for an urgent meeting with Mr Mandelson and will seek an adjournment debate when Parliament returns in the autumn.

"They will be on his back." This is not just an issue about Manchester United, this affects every club in the country."

The Football Association

also joined the fray yesterday. Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said the club "had a responsibility" to talk to its own fans about any deal, and welcomed the announcement that the takeover bid would be referred to the Office of Fair Trading.

A potential rival to BSkyB also emerged with Eric - the leisure group which owns 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers - confirming that it was looking at a bid. Eric has been encouraged by the level of oppo-

sition to the deal, but is unlikely to be able to pay as much as BSkyB for the club.

BSkyB will put its formal offer to United's board at the end of this week. The only voice of dissent on the board is believed to be Greg Dyke, a director of the company and head of Pearson Television, a rival to BSkyB.

The BSkyB bid pushed Manchester United's share price up by 30 per cent yesterday, adding £150m to the value of the club.

Cities analysts expect the takeover to be referred by the OFT, or by Mr Mandelson, to the monopolies commission on the grounds that it raises competition issues as both buyer and seller of football rights.

Mr Mandelson said the bid would be "of enormous interest and importance to a lot of people". And he added: "If a bid goes ahead, it will be notified to the director-general of fair trading and he will look at it very completely and extremely searching."

Fringe

Trimble makes his peace with Adams

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE NORTHERN Ireland peace process has produced so many unprecedented events and defining moments that when David Trimble spoke to Gerry Adams yesterday it produced interest but no real shockwaves.

Mr Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, described the occasion as workmanlike while Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said there was no acrimony. The low-key presentation by the two men made the potentially historic encounter seem positively mundane.

The two political opponents have been in the same room on numerous occasions during the negotiations of the past year, but yesterday was the first time they have addressed each other directly.

They were among the leaders of parties of the new assembly who convened at Stormont to discuss various administrative matters. A further step will be taken on Thursday when the two men will have their first bilateral encounter.

Stormont still bore traces yesterday of last week's Clinton visit which was instrumental in bringing about the new forms of contact. Four pieces of sticky tape were still on the ground outside the front door; they had been placed there to show



Adams: 'No acrimony'

Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, David Trimble and his deputy Seamus Mallon where to stand to wave for the cameras.

During yesterday's meeting Mr Trimble, who chaired the proceedings, looked at the Sinn Fein leader and said "Gerry Adams", inviting him to speak. According to Mr Trimble later:

"The only point of contention was when Sinn Fein representatives raised the question of the formation of the shadow executive."

We pointed out that, under the agreement, a number of things must happen, that there must be progress on a number of things that there must be progress on all matters, and this puts a particular responsibility on paramilitary-related parties."

Mr Adams said the encounter had been "good engagement", adding: "I think

the meeting was conducted in a good atmosphere and there was no acrimony." He said no pre-conditions lay in the way of Sinn Fein's participation in the new executive, insisting that parties had an automatic right of involvement.

Yesterday's meeting produced no conclusions on issues such as how many departments there should be for the new Northern Ireland administration, although there is a broad consensus that there will probably be 12. There was also no decision on when the shadow executive should come into existence.

In the meantime, however, the major parties have encamped themselves in the large building which housed the Stormont parliament until its abolition in 1972. The building has since played host to a number of other assemblies, all of which ended in failure.

The parties are using the buildings offices and facilities such as the assembly members' dining room. *Ad hoc* committees are already functioning in advance of next Monday, when the assembly will reconvene following the summer break.

The funeral took place yesterday of the 29th victim of the Omagh bombing, who died at the weekend. The service for Sean McGinn, 61, who was married with four grown-up children, was held in Killyclogher, Co Tyrone.

PRESSURE MOUNTED on the IRA to reveal the secret graves of their victims yesterday as bereaved families launched a hotline for information.

The IRA admitted for the first time last week that it had executed a "small number of people" in the 1970s. Relatives of the "disappeared" now hope to persuade the Provos

to reveal the locations of the remains, which will allow the dead to be given proper burials.

The IRA said last week it was setting up a special unit under a senior officer to trace the bodies. Sinn Fein has also set up its own helpline on the matter.

The families stressed that

any information they receive

on the free telephone service

will remain confidential, and incriminating details will not be passed on to the police.

A relatives' group, Families

of the Disappeared, said at the launch of the hotline in Belfast:

"We welcome the new climate

of hope and reconciliation ... however, for us, the violence is not over, finished and done with. We still yearn for the return of the bodies of the loved ones."

Members of families spoke of their harrowing experiences and attempts to establish the fates of those abducted. One, 18-year-old John McClory, had been taken away and warned by paramilitaries over his "anti-social behaviour" - carrying out two robberies - the weekend before he went missing.

His sister Eileen said yesterday: "We heard they took him to a flat in Lenadoon, a safe house where they interrogated

him in one room and Brian McKinney [another man who disappeared] in another. John threw himself out of the window, taking one of them with him. They shot him as he tried to get away. They had to shoot Brian as well. That's what we heard on the grapevine."

"Our mum's nearly 85 and all she wants is a grave to visit. We don't care who did it - we just want to know where he is."

Her mother, Mary McClory, said: "All I want is my son's body. I just want to give him a decent burial."

Helen McKendry, whose mother Jean McCorville was dragged from their home by

the IRA, is one of the founder members of Families of the Disappeared. Ms McCorville had helped a dying British soldier, and may also have been suspected of being an informer.

Ms McKendry said she had heard from the media about the IRA's decision to try to locate the graves. She said: "It would have helped if they'd had the decency to tell us first."

At the moment the searches for 14 graves, but more families are expected to come forward.

One problem facing the IRA, it is believed, is that those who carried out the burials may not remember where the graves are after all these years.

Photo: Nell Cooper



Members of Families of the Disappeared hold photographs of the loved ones whose bodies have never been found

Crispin Rodger

Families' plea over IRA graves

BY KIM SENGUPTA

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IN BRIEF

Drink-driving Labour MP banned

A LABOUR MP was still nearly twice the legal drink-drive limit 12 hours after downing lager and ouzo to help him sleep. Jamie Cann, MP for Ipswich, was fined £1,000 and banned for 18 months by magistrates in Felixstowe, Suffolk, after admitting drink-driving in Martlesham on 29 August.

Transport workers' blockade

BRITISH LORRY drivers face 24 hours of blockades today as transport workers worldwide protest at excessive working hours. The action will affect much of Europe, including Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg and Italy. But France - the heart of the transport network - will be worst hit.

Holiday fall kills girl, 3

A THREE-year-old girl fell 40ft to her death from a hotel window last Wednesday while on holiday in Malta. It emerged yesterday. Bolton coroner Martin Coppel was due to open an inquest today on the death of Rebecca Raw, of Bolton, whose parents flew back with the body last Friday.

Council delays decision on school

A LOCAL authority has delayed a decision on whether to invite private companies to bid to run one of its schools. Surrey County Council has also kept open the option of closing Kings' Manor School in Guildford, which was declared failing by government inspectors earlier this year.

Save the Children

</

Fringe audiences dwindle as Tattoo beats records

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THIS YEAR'S Edinburgh Festival has been a low-key, confused affair with at least one of the most important venues making a loss.

To add to the embarrassment, while alternative comedy and radical theatre have played to small audiences - with fringe organisers blaming bad weather - the most traditional entertainment of all, the Military Tattoo, attracted capacity crowds in pouring rain.

Yesterday, the city's tourist authority reported a 4 per cent year-on-year drop in visitor numbers in August. And William Burdett-Coutts, the head of the premier fringe venue, The Assembly Rooms, said the complex would make a loss this year. He also said there had been massive confusion and discontent about the decision to start the Fringe a week early, before the official festival.

Hilary Strong, director of the Fringe, made the change because, she said, performers



David Mamet
The belated UK premiere of David Mamet's first play *Lakeboat* should have been one of the festival's theatre hits. But it played to lower than expected audiences due to what Assembly Rooms director William Burdett-Coutts called "a lack of buzz".

preferred to appear in August before the poorer weather kept audiences away in early September.

But the event most susceptible to poor weather: the open-air Military Tattoo on



Steve Harley
An intimate show by the former Cockney Rebel rock star was a little too intimate as audiences had their pick of the front rows. Harley's first-class performance was a victim of uneven sales in the controversial new first week.

Edinburgh Castle esplanade, played to capacity. It sold more than 99 per cent of available tickets and notched up a record audience of over 210,000 in a three-week run.

The Assembly Rooms man-

agement said it would make a loss over this year's four-week run, despite a sell-out third week.

Karen Karen, of the Gilded Ballroom venues, said overall ticket sales were up 25 per



Mark Little
You think the first week's bad. Try being on in the fourth. The ex-*Neighbours* and *Big Breakfast* TV man sold out his stand-up show mid-festival, but there were empty seats in the fourth week when many punters believed the festival had finished.

cant, but the fourth week had been pointless.

The official festival also suffered from poor audiences in the final week, and its director Brian McMaster regretted the two events were not in step.

"From the point of view of our audience it is vital we share the same dates," he said. He added that, unlike the Fringe which has no fixed programme and accepts anyone who can find a performing space, the offical festival must plan several years ahead to secure big international performers, who are often unavailable in August.

Mr Burdett-Coutts said: "The dates issue killed the whole atmosphere of the festi-

val. There was no buzz, the press was confused and the theatrical events in particular suffered. Next year, it has to be a three-week festival and the fringe and official festivals must act in harmony."



John Dowie
One of the godfathers of stand-up comedy back this year with a comedy and poetry routine at the Pleasance. But a victim of first week uncertainties, and of not having the massive marketing organisation that today's top comics have.

Release deal for sex-crime prisoner

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

A DANGEROUS paedophile who is due to be released from prison next week has indicated that he is prepared to be locked up rather than return to a village where he abused children for 30 years.

Police and social workers have warned Rhys Hughes that he could be subjected to vigilante attacks if he goes home after being released from prison next Monday.

Hughes, 65, has served six years of a 10-year sentence for the rape and buggery of nine children, male and female, between 1967 and 1991.

A place has been found for him in a medium-secure unit, where he could be cared for at a cost to the public of around £100,000-a-year. But because he was jailed before the introduction of the 1991 Criminal Justice Act he cannot be forced to accept supervision.

Officials fear that Hughes - who refused treatment while he was in Dartmoor prison and who had earlier insisted that he

the village of Sonning Common where Hughes, a retired gardener, has spent most of his life.

Female police officers will operate a 24-hour telephone line, so that his former victim can summon help if she ever feels under threat. To help other children in the village, a network of eight safety houses is being set up to offer sanctuary to any children who are frightened at being confronted by Hughes. The house-owners have been vetted by police.

Carol Viney, chairman of the Sonning Common Parish Council, said that the security plan should be followed through in case Hughes returned at a later date.

"I don't think it would be dismantled if he goes into secure accommodation," she said.

"The police have done everything they can possibly think of to minimise the risk and they have liaised with us constantly."

Ms Viney said local people preferred to rely on the police rather than to take the law into their own hands. "The village is still very calm and I would not have thought there is a huge vigilante group," she said.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that the cost of keeping Hughes in secure accommodation would be good value compared with the expense of trying to contain him in his home village.

"It's money well spent if it leads to treatment and protects children," he said. "All the research shows that with dangerous sex offenders, the more controls that are imposed on behaviour, the safer the community."

Hughes is one of at least six dangerous paedophiles among 150 sex offenders being released over the next two years without supervision.

Two who have already been freed - the child killers Sidney Cooke and Robert Oliver - agreed to be housed to secure accommodation after being the subject of violent demonstrations by protesters. Cooke is in secret police accommodation in Avon and Somerset, while Oliver is being held in a medium secure psychiatric unit near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

However, Stephen Barrell - who was a member of the same paedophile gang as Cooke and Oliver - has vanished after being released early from a 10-year sentence.

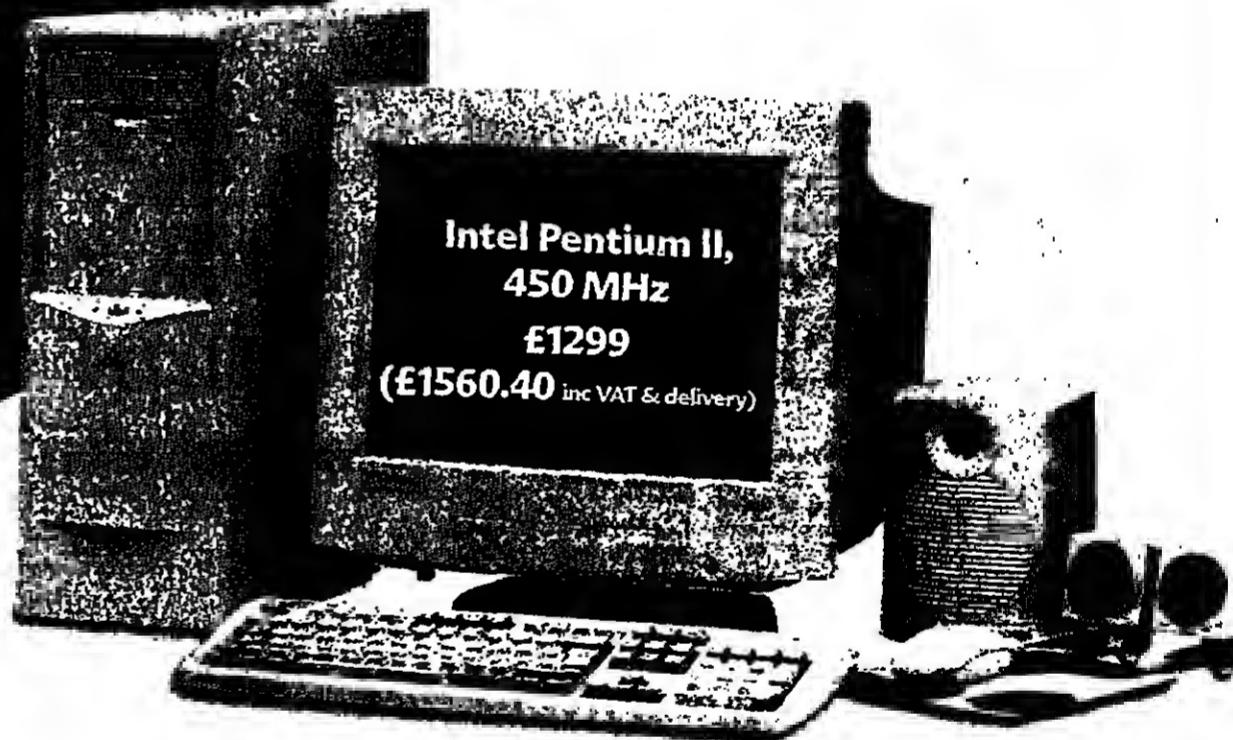
Thames Valley Police have drawn up a major security programme to protect children in

DAVID AARONOVITCH

'Just because I think that adultery is not the ultimate sin, that is not the same as saying that it is mostly a good idea'

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 ➤

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New 'supernurses' to help rescue NHS

A NEW grade of highly-paid "supernurses" will be unveiled today by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, as a centrepiece of the Government's plans to modernise the National Health Service.

The nursing consultants, as they will be known, will be put in charge of their own clinics in an effort to rid the "Carry On" image of nurses as doctors' handmaids.

Mr Blair will reveal the new post along with plans to create 6,000 nursing training places

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

over the next three years when he attends the Royal College of Nursing's Nurse of the Year Award in London.

The "supernurses" will have their own list of patients and staff and will be allowed to run clinics in disciplines such as breast cancer care and cardiac rehabilitation. The post is an attempt to end the career ceiling that currently means any nurse who wants a higher salary and

status has to abandon the wards and go into hospital management.

Mr Blair will claim that the creation of the new role is a key part of his drive to modernise the National Health Service and will promote nurses as skilled professionals rather than as "angels of mercy".

He will reiterate this summer's announcement that the comprehensive spending review will create 15,000 nursing jobs over the next three years.

In a drive to attract more

women to nursing, Mr Blair will also call on NHS trusts to review their employment policies to make them more "family oriented". The Prime Minister will demand that hospitals offer more job-shares, child-friendly shift patterns and an overhaul of conditions of service.

He will call for self-rostering to give nurses, rather than managers, control of working arrangements and urge more "keep-in-touch" contracts that allow hospitals to keep jobs open for women who have ca-

reer breaks for children. Mr Blair will tell the RCN: "Some nurses at a certain point in their career are happy to move into management, but many others want to progress but still retain direct, day-to-day contact with patients, the reason why we came into nursing in the first place. The creation of nursing consultant posts, rooted in clinical practice and in touch with patients and staff would be one way of recognising and meeting that aspiration."

The nursing consultants

would have the same status within nursing that medical consultants have within their profession. "The consultant nurses would provide a focus for developing and supporting specialist roles in the profession and provide nurses with an alternative career path."

At the moment, starting salary for a newly qualified nurse is £16,600, rising to £26,500 for the most senior grade of clinical nursing specialists. The structure dates from a grading scheme introduced by the

Tories 10 years ago in an attempt to allow nurses to earn more at the highest level.

The Prime Minister is expected to make clear that while all nursing pay rises have to be affordable, the "supernurses" are likely to earn higher salaries than senior staff at present.

Ministers hope that the announcement will help stave off union anger that the nurses' pay award is to be phased in over the next year. Nurses' pay is sure to be a key issue over the

next few months, particularly in the light of public statements from Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, that it should be higher.

Pay is seen by both the RCN and the traditionally more militant Unison as an important test of the Government's stated desire to attract and retain more British nurses.

Recent evidence showed that poor pay and morale led thousands of nurses to go abroad, leaving the gaps to be filled by nurses from overseas.

Firms fined for child workers

THE AVON cosmetics firm was fined yesterday after a court was told how children turned up for work at its factory in their school uniform.

Northampton Magistrates' Court heard the three young people - who cannot be named for legal reasons - were recruited by the Kelly agency for the "twilight" shift. Both firms were fined a total of £2,750 after admitting three charges each of employing children in November last year and April this year. Under the 1996 Education Act, children are not allowed to work in a factory until after their GCSEs.

The court was told that the 16-year-olds had not yet taken their GCSEs and were employed on light duties in the Northampton firm's liquid cosmetics production line.

"They were putting lids on bottles, bottles into boxes, putting the boxes of the production line," Anne Wilson, prosecuting for the Health and Safety Executive, told the court.

The law was there to protect young people's safety - as they were statistically more likely to have accidents - and their education, she said.

She said Kelly had recruited the children to work at Avon but the company made no inquiries about their ages.

"Sometimes they turned up in school uniform," she said.

The teenagers - who were paid £3.70 an hour to work 5pm to 9pm Monday to Thursday - had not tried to deceive Kelly about their age. But the recruitment firm's in-house manual was wrong and had since been changed, the court was told.

Ron Reid, for Avon, told the court the teenagers were employed during busy periods before Christmas and Easter. He said Avon paid the same rate whatever the employee's age and the company had received no financial benefit from employing them.

After the case, Miss Wilson said: "Both firms were equally responsible. We would like other firms to take notice of this case. If a child is not old enough to take their GCSEs they cannot work in a factory."

Mr Reid, for Avon, described the case as "regrettable", but added: "This is not child labour. They were 16, employed in light duties and, but for a change in legislation, they would have been legally employed."

Kelly Services said "regretfully" recruiting the three teenagers, and new screening procedures were now in place to prevent a repetition.

Death of pop star baffles police

BY SIMEON TEIGEL

POLICE do not know whether a pop star found burning in the street was murdered or if he committed suicide, an inquest jury was told yesterday.

Michael Menson was discovered lying fatally injured on the North Circular road in Edmonton, north London, early on 28 January last year.

The police made extensive inquiries but are unclear whether he was killed or if Mr Menson, a registered schizophrenic, set himself on fire, Hornsey coroner's court was told.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Scott said Mr Menson's brother Kwesi had insisted that the musician, who had five hit singles in the 1980s with the group Double Trouble, had told him from his hospital bed that he had been attacked by four youths.

Det Ch Insp Scott said Kwesi had insisted: "Michael made mention of four youths on a bus and they might be responsible."

His officers had spoken to about 300 people, including one now living in northern Cyprus, about the death. They had also taken up to 200 statements.

"Not one witness of any substance has been found in the last 18 months that can give us any concrete facts about how this happened," he said. However, the death was being treated as murder.

Mr Menson, the son of a Ghanaian diplomat, died in Birkbeck Hospital, Essex, in February from his injuries.

Rajiv Sharma, consultant psychiatrist, who was treating him at Chase Farm Hospital at the time of the incident, told the inquest that Mr Menson was a schizophrenic who suffered bouts of acute psychosis including hallucinations and delusions believed that he was being followed and persecuted.

Mr Menson may have harboured suicidal ideas. Dr Sharma said, but he did not have the necessary "suicidal intent".

When Dr Sharma last saw Mr Menson as an outpatient on 10 January, the musician's "mood was good".

Brian Leslie, who saw the burning man, said Mr Menson failed to react to the fact that he was on fire. Initially Mr Menson was "strolling" and "relaxed" despite the fact that his back was on fire, Mr Leslie added.

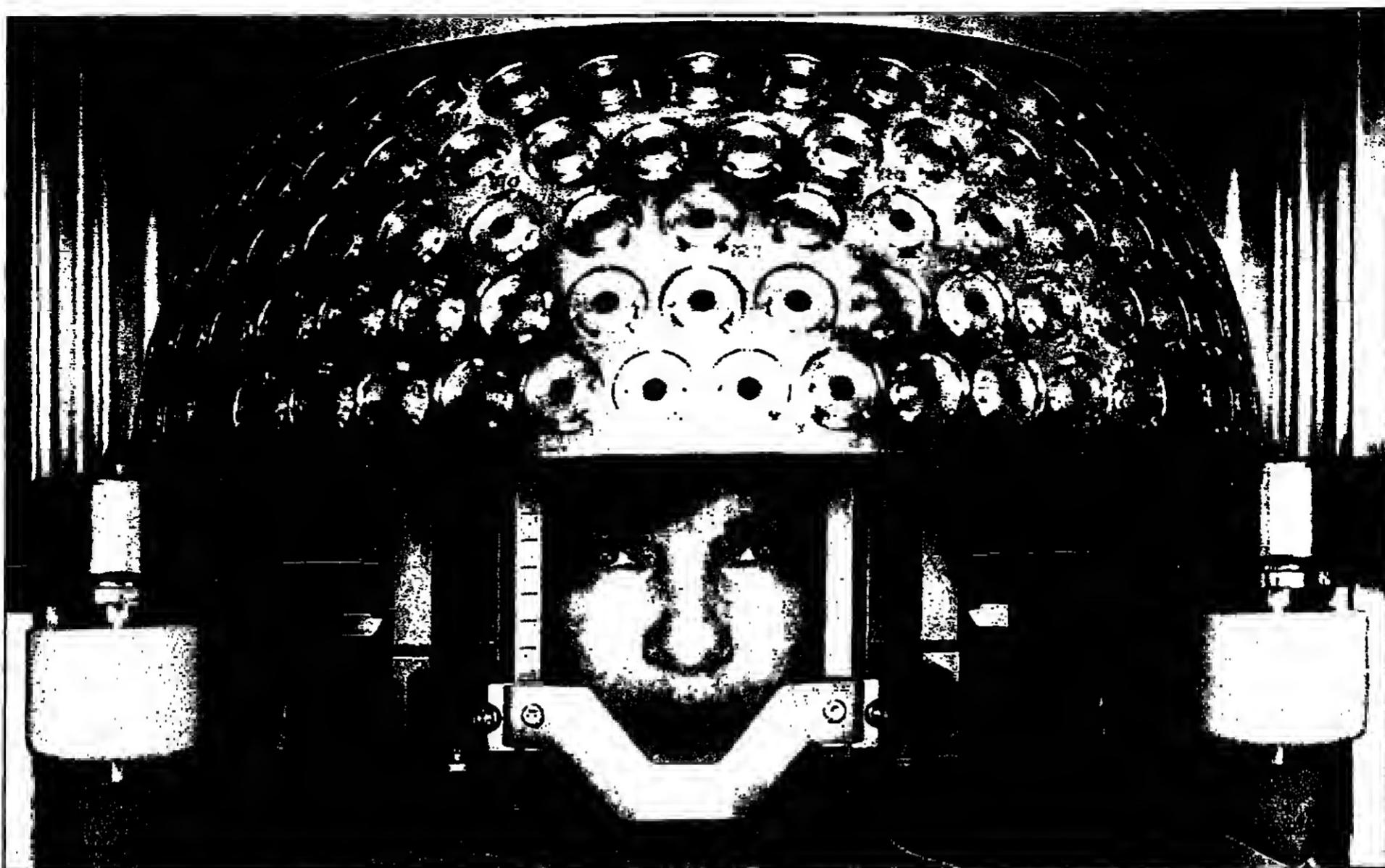
Constable Johanna Walsh, the first police officer on the scene, said Mr Menson, who appeared to be in a "trance", had left a trail of burning clothes along the road. She asked him three times who had done that to him and received no response. The fourth time Mr Menson replied simply "Lee".

He responded positively when she asked him if that was someone he knew. Nevertheless, Ms Walsh said, it was not necessary to cordon off the area as a crime scene because she believed Mr Menson had set himself alight.

Terry Munyard, counsel for Mr Menson's family, asked the PC why she had disregarded the injured man's apparent claim that someone else had set him on fire.

She said: "I didn't at the time believe that he knew what he was saying."

The inquest continues.



Glyn Griffiths

A patient prepared for treatment with the Gamma Knife, which focuses a high dose of radiation on a tumour

Hospital's virtual knife in a helmet marks the dawn of bloodless surgery

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

London, who will operate the machine, said: "The idea is to deliver a killing dose of radiation at one single time without injuring the surrounding tissue. This is at the frontier of technology for non-invasive treatments."

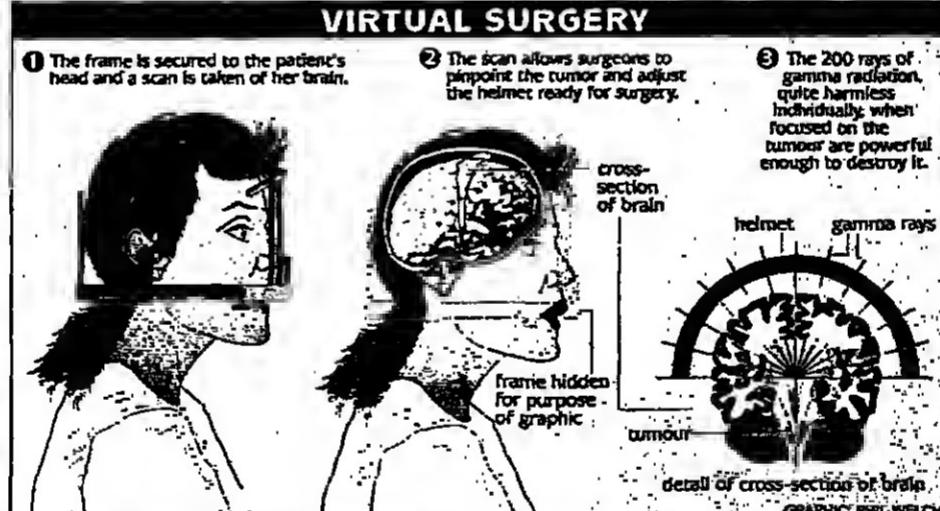
The development of the machine marks the growing importance of engineers in hospitals. The era of heroic surgery in which patients are opened up and their internal organs rearranged is passing into history. Surgeons increasingly rely on high-tech instruments, some operated by robots, inserted through tiny incisions, or no incision at all. As one expert put it: "We have got to get away from the idea that when something goes wrong you make a bloody great hole, put your hands inside and sort it out. Our grandchildren won't believe that is what we did."

The device focuses a beam of intense radiation at the precise spot inside the skull where the tissue to be destroyed, such as a brain tumour, is located. The dead cells are removed by natural processes and carried away in the blood.

The treatment, known as radiosurgery, is painless, lasts five to fifteen minutes and the patient can return to work next day. A conventional brain operation takes several hours under general anaesthesia followed by intensive care and a long convalescence.

Christine Lindquist, neurosurgeon at Cromwell Hospital, in the head. The rays are beamed through holes in a metal helmet like a colander. Each is too weak to cause damage as it passes through the skin and brain but focused together on a single point they destroy tissue in that area.

The success of the device depends on the accuracy of the targeting system. If the wrong



cancer cells remaining after conventional surgery. Radiotherapy relies on the biological principle that healthy cells recover after a (relatively) low dose of radiation but cancer cells do not. The Gamma Knife uses a much higher dose of radiation, which destroys both healthy and cancer cells.

However, in the case of cancer, it is suitable only for secondary brain tumours that have spread from elsewhere in the body and are well defined in the brain. Primary brain tumours throw off malignant cells which cannot be mopped up by the radiosurgery technique.

The £2.5m machine acquired by the private Cromwell Hospital is the first to be installed in Britain exclusively for clinical use. It will be available to NHS patients at a cost of £7,000 to their health authorities. An older machine has been used in trials at Sheffield University, chiefly for arterial malformations of the brain. Worldwide, an estimated 80,000 patients have been treated.

Sex case bishop forced to retire

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

A senior Irish bishop was understood to have sought a post in Britain on his behalf.

But the statement, issued on his behalf by the Catholic press office in Dublin, said he had resigned from the Society of St James and was living with relatives in England as he needed "some time to myself".

The final decision on his possible rehabilitation lay with the Congregation of Bishops in Rome. Cardinal Basil Hume strongly opposed any posting in his diocese, and said it would be "inappropriate" for Dr Casey to take up a post in London.

A spokesman for the London Church said most bishops in England and Wales would agree that Dr Casey should not work in public ministry there. Dr Casey travelled to Ireland



Eamonn Casey: Seeking 'some time to myself'

in recent weeks, and visited a former classmate in Omagh after the bombing.

Nothing quite like the Dr Casey affair has been seen in the Irish Church in centuries. The disbelief that greeted the scandal was compounded by the Irish Catholic clergy's rigid sexual conservatism.

SECRET GOVERNMENT papers to be unveiled tomorrow could finally reveal the sources of gold looted by the Nazis and recovered at the end of the Second World War.

In a ceremony concluding half a century of negotiations over the fate of the gold, the Tripartite (Allies) Gold Commission (TGC) set up to handle the loot will be wound up.

And TGC archives, which Jewish campaigners argue could hold the key to tracing gold stolen from victims of the Holocaust, will be opened for the first time.

The TGC was founded to restore the wealth to countries

whose national reserves were plundered by the Germans. But Jewish organisations believe that some of the gold was

to a "belated international recognition that victim gold had been misused", she said. Although the gold returned to governments was done so under international agreements, proof that some of it came from Holocaust victims might put moral pressure on countries to pay compensation.

The refusal of the British, French and Americans, who together formed the TGC, to release the files until the commission's work was completed provoked a bitter dispute at the Nazi gold conference in London last December. But the TGC members argued that releasing them might have caused friction between claimant governments and delayed completion of the commission's work.

Research by the trust has led

to the personal assets of those who perished in the death camps. It may even have included gold taken from Holocaust victims' teeth.

Jenice Lopatkin, director of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said they were convinced some "victim gold" had been given to countries by the TGC, but without the TGC files they were unable to establish how much. "We don't know if these archives hide any uncomfortable secrets, or if delay in releasing them was just international bureaucracy. Either way, the release is symbolically important. We have already arranged to research further," she said.

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At the time of the conference,

£43m of gold - about 5.5 tons of the original 337 tons - remained in the Bank of England for the TGC to return to countries including France and the Netherlands. Many subsequently agreed to give it up to needy Holocaust survivors.

Now only £500,000 in gold and £33,000 currency is left - owed to the former Yugoslavia. Its return signals the end of the commission's work.

A closure ceremony at the French foreign office tomorrow will be attended by representatives of the British, French and US governments, including the US under-secretary of state, Stuart Eizenstat. A British Foreign Office spokesman said the Government welcomed the opportunity for "transparency" provided by opening the files.

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Now only £500,000 in gold and £33,000

Food guide conman flies off scot free

A CONMAN who fooled more than 10,000 restaurants across Britain into parting with cash for worthless "Good Restaurant Guide" certificates has left the country after the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges.

Alistair Woods is thought to have netted as much as £500,000 through a simple ruse that milked its victims through flattery.

He simply wrote to restaurants, saying they had passed a secret inspection and were entitled to a special certificate and inclusion in the forthcoming "1998 Good Restaurant Guide" - all for just £19. Owners were unctuously congratulated and the money flowed in.

For many restaurants, from the humblest of back-street cafés to high-street brasseries, it seemed too good to be true. Alas, it was. The certificates were worth no more than the paper they were printed on and the guide never existed.

At the height of the scam, it is thought Woods cashed up to £5,000 a week from cheques that rolled in to his first-floor flat in Leyton, east London.

When trading standards officers caught him in July they found £80,000 in uncashed cheques. That day's mailbag alone contained another £20,000 from delighted restaurateurs.

Using a PC and expensive printer, Woods had sent cer-

BY GARY FINN

tificates to restaurants he had culled from a Thomson directory CD database. He was arrested on a host of charges including theft and deception after a joint operation by police and trading standards officers.

Investigators said Woods had devised similar schemes in the past, including guides for garages, florists, takeaways and hairdressers.

But Woods appears to have had the last laugh. He has been freed from Brixton prison in south London, where he was on remand, after the CPS decided there was not enough evidence to conclude the case successfully.

Despite reams of evidence from investors, Woods cannot be tried because he ultimately did send certificates - however worthless - to those who sent him money.

The outcome has infuriated police and council officials. Woods, a former electrician, has now left Britain for South Africa to be with his wife and nine-year-old boy.

Detective Constable Dave Job, of Leyton CID, said: "It would have been nice to have put this forward as a test case, as we think no jury would have considered it right or proper. It means he is free to do it again - in theory, basically anybody could."

One London trading standards officer said: "It has taken a lot of time to get him and now we find all our hard work has been wasted.

"Thousands of restaurants around the country have been ripped off and if this is the CPS's idea of public service then perhaps they should think about getting other jobs."

■ Police are hunting a conman who duped businessmen out of thousands of pounds after offering crates of champagne at knockdown prices.

At least 25 embarrassed executives have confessed to being conned by the man, who told them he had a few cases left over from an office party. He

Alistair Woods, caught on a bank's security camera

'Spice babes' forecast for failing girls

A HEAD TEACHERS' leader is predicting a wave of copycat teenage pregnancies because of publicity about the two Spice Girls - Posh and Scary - who are expecting babies.

Judith Mullen, new president of the Secondary Heads Association, said yesterday that she feared there would be "a generation of Spice babies born to teenage mothers".

She blamed Labour and Conservative governments for over-emphasising examination qualifications. "There are a lot of young women whose self-esteem has been knocked because they don't feel they have achieved the magic five A*-C grades at GCSE. For some, pregnancy might be a way of feeling success," she said.

Teenage pregnancies in Britain, she pointed out, were higher than in any other European country.

In the past decade national tests have been introduced for children aged 7, 11 and 14, and last week the Government announced details of assessments for all children when they begin primary school.

Heads have criticised government exam performance tables, which use top GCSE grades as their main measure, tempting schools to neglect their weakest pupils.

Mrs Mullen, who is warden of Melbourn Village College in

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

South Cambridgeshire, said that girls who struggled at school and came from homes where they received little encouragement often suffered from lower self-esteem than boys who fell behind.

Heads were wholeheartedly behind the drive to raise standards but the emphasis on test and exam results meant guidance on careers and personal development was being squeezed out. "We have to get back to looking at the importance of personal development for young people."

She said that she was not "knocking" the Spice Girls, who were in their 20s and "as I understand it, in loving, caring relationships".

■ Charles Clarke, the Schools minister, announced grants of £150,000 yesterday for 20 projects that will pair youngsters with adult role models. The aim is to improve motivation and raise aspirations.

A project in Camden, north London, will centre on girls, mainly from ethnic minorities, who have low self-esteem or are underachieving. They will have successful businesswomen as mentors. A scheme in Tameside, Manchester, will provide the children of travellers with mentors.

RUPERT CORNWELL
'Compared to the lurid scandal engulfing President Clinton, what does this squabbling in a remote corner of Europe matter?'

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5 →

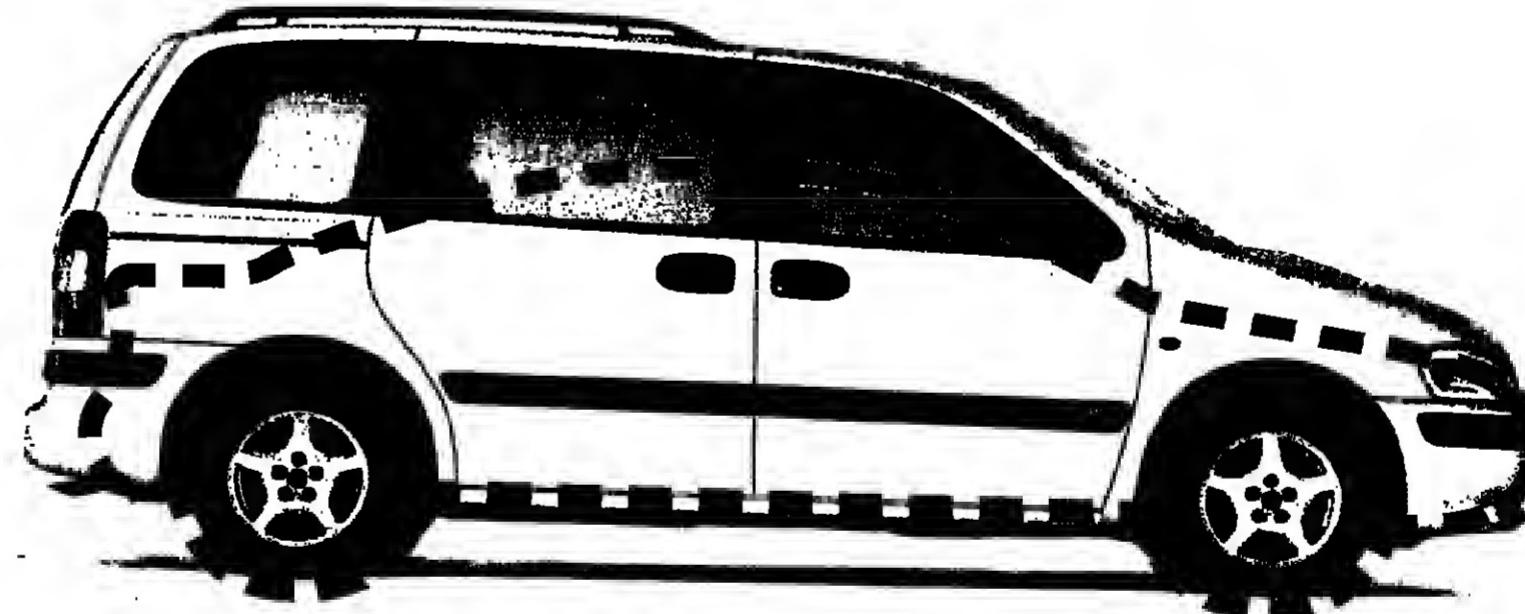


Auctioneer J Straker, Chadwick and Sons displaying lot 70 - a 19th-century French iron-cage corkscrew estimated at £7,000 - yesterday in advance of its sale of more than 500 corkscrews, to be held in Abergavenny, Gwent, on 23 September

Rob Stratton

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SINTRA

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Clinton's support evaporates away

President's church says he should go

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

AS THE leader of his own church urged Bill Clinton to resign the presidency, anxiety was mounting yesterday about the huge toll that the Monica Lewinsky scandal may take both on the work programme of Congress in Washington and the election prospects of Democratic candidates across the country.

Mr Clinton's party is confronting the prospect of calamity at the polls in November when voters will determine the shape of the next Congress as well as the governorships of numerous US states, including California. Yesterday's Labor Day holiday marked the traditional start of the campaign season with political rallies and picnics in many pivotal battlegrounds.

Some commentators warn that the continuing Lewinsky scandal, and the damage many

of them have suffered from it, could well prove fatal to the Democrats' chances of retaining control of the House without being taken over by Republicans.

A spokesman for Mr Clinton's campaign said: "We will continue to do our best to ensure that our

party remains competitive and that we can continue to serve the public interest. We will not let the Lewinsky scandal distract us from our focus on the economy and on the issues that matter most to Americans."

With Congress due to reconvene after the Labor Day break tomorrow, alarm bells are sounding that a busy work schedule, ranging from votes on next year's federal budget to an important Senate debate on changing election fund-raising laws, will be sidetracked by the scandal. "We have a crisis of the regime," Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, warned at the weekend. "This is a distraction which is doubly dangerous because of the world situation."

"Starr is crippling Democrat candidates trying to run their own campaigns," commented John Freerjohn, a political scientist at Stanford University in California. "There are shoes waiting to drop, but nobody knows exactly what they are. They don't know how to react, what to do."

Further embarrassment came to the President from Paige Patterson, head of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the US. Mr Patterson said Mr Clinton, who is a Baptist, should step down "before he is instrumental in corrupting all our young people".

Mr Patterson, who said the President should leave Washington "for the sake of the country", voiced concern about the apparent willingness of many Americans to stand by the President in spite of his extramarital indiscretions. "This



US independent counsel Kenneth Starr leaving his home in McLean, Virginia, yesterday. His report on President Bill Clinton's activities is nearing completion

Khue Bui

Senator Moynihan: "We have crisis of the regime"

expect to be brought on the President by the Kenneth Starr report, has already wrecked the Democrats' hopes of winning back 11 seats in the House of Representatives and regaining their majority. The report could reach Congress by the end of this week. Some predict that the Republicans could secure 60 seats in the US Senate, a majority stronger than any they have enjoyed since 1993.

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A rumour of a story of the scandal...

BY DAVID USBORNE

LISTEN UP Bob Woodward, he of the Woodward-Bernstein duo who skewered Richard Nixon, with help from "Deep Throat", in the Watergate scandal, 24 years ago, has a humungous story. You haven't heard? He is about to spill news of a second White House intern who twined links with the President of the United States.

Or at least that is what the rumour mill in Washington is saying. Fred Barnes, executive editor of the *Weekly Standard* political magazine, said as much on Fox Television more than a week ago and political reporters across the city have been frantic for days trying to place the story for themselves.

But there is a problem. "Absolutely untrue," Mr Woodward retorted to the *New York Daily Post* last week.

It is easy to see why editors here are in no small tizzy. They have perhaps the hottest story to hit Washington since Watergate, and yet for now they find themselves in a twilight zone where rumours and gossip are ripe and provable facts virtually absent.

We do know, at least, that President Bill Clinton misbehaved with Monica Lewinsky because he has finally told us



Bob Woodward, seen in his Nixon-hunting glory days, has denied having a new Clinton-intern story

as much. But for the rest, who knows?

Managers will improve dramatically, of course, when the vaunted report into the Lewinsky affair from the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, finally lands in Congress, perhaps as early as this week.

With luck, leaders on Capitol Hill will agree that at least an executive summary of the report can quickly be made public. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, would like that to be placed on the internet.

Until then, the American media is operating in a slurry of whispers and innuendo that is fraught with peril. So much now surfacing is juicy indeed, ranging from the second intern gossip to Ms Lewinsky's reported use of cigars as sex toys. But can they be published without confirmation? And how can the editors protect themselves from being manipulated in this environment by players in the scandal?

The White House is understandably angry about the second intern buzz. "This media circus, which has gotten so out of hand that you're writing

about it, is feeding off rumours with no factual basis and ignores the devastating impact on the human beings involved," a spokesman, Jim Kennedy, told Howard Kurtz, media editor of *The Washington Post*. "No wonder the public is so fed up with the press."

And that is an additional concern. In poll after poll Americans have signalled their distaste with the whole Lewinsky business, which they wish would simply go away.

If the media is perceived to be glorying in the whole tawdry

business, a backlash against it could quickly gather momentum.

"This is the sickest measure

of what we've come to," Mr Woodward remarked about the second intern gossip in an interview with Mr Kurtz. "If there's no story, people have to talk about a story that might be coming. We fill the vacuum with an expectation."

But the White House itself

has been accused of press manipulation. So says Dan Burton, a Republican representative from Ohio who had been lead

ing the charge against Mr Clinton on Capitol Hill for months after calling him a "scumbag".

On Friday, he admitted to his local newspaper that he had an affair in the early eighties that produced a child, a boy now in his teens. He was forced into the revelation, he claimed, because the White House had

caused the *Washington Star* and *News* to write a story about him.

If the White House is indeed using the media to smear its critics on the Hill, it is playing a dangerous game. It has denied it, of course. That did not stop the commentator George Will claiming on television at the weekend that the Clinton side Sidney Blumenthal had been spreading much to reporters about Henry Hyde, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that will consider the Starr report. That, replied Mr Blumenthal in turn yesterday, was "an outrageous smear".

At the very least, the White House has been using reporters to try to blunt the impact of damaging information before it actually comes out. Days before the President finally testified before the Lewinsky grand jury on 17 August, aides were whispering that he would on that occasion confess all alone.

In the meantime, rest assured. The *Washington Post*, and all articles by Mr Woodward, will be our first read every morning. If his second intern story drops, you will be the first to know. Until then this newspaper will never mention this completely unproven morsel of rotten gossip again. Maybe.

EU chief backs US criticisms over Kosovo

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels
and STEVE CRAWSHAW

A SENIOR European Union official yesterday fuelled a transatlantic row over the world's response to the crisis in Kosovo, saying she backed American criticism of European inaction.

Emma Bonino, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, said she "agreed" with Christopher Hill, the US envoy to Kosovo, who at the weekend said Europeans were fiddling while Kosovo burned.

Mr Hill accused Western European governments of being so absorbed in plans for a single currency that they had failed to intervene to stop the bloodshed in their backyard.

The transatlantic divisions worsened as the Austrian presidency of the EU said it was preparing to lodge a formal protest with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in response to Mr Hill's remarks.

But Ms Bonino, who visited the Serbian province recently, is said by her officials to be dismayed at Europe's failure to halt the "ethnic cleansing" of the province by the Serbs. Yesterday two senior American envoys in Serbia, John Shattuck and Robert Dole, tried without success to put pressure on the international community in disarray over Kosovo.

Fears have been growing about the fate of numerous male Albanians who have been separated from columns of refugees and taken away by the Serbs. In the war in Bosnia in 1992-3, the Serbs frequently separated Muslim and Croat families in this way, and thousands were never seen again.

on the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

After a meeting with Mr Milosevic, Mr Dole, a former US presidential candidate, accused the Serbs of "waging war against civilians for political purposes".

Mr Milosevic tossed his visitors a conciliatory bone by saying representatives of the International Red Cross could visit Albanians detained by the Serbian military and police. But he refused calls for an independent investigation into the massacre in the province.

His office indicated he had no intention of stopping his crackdown. His spokesman said Albanian "terrorism in Kosovo will be suppressed and eliminated", and called for international condemnation of the KLA rebels.

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In an apparent effort to avoid some of the international criticism, Mr Milosevic's security forces were reported to have released about 500 men taken captive in the latest offensive.

Kris Janowska, spokeswoman for the UNHCR refugee body, the UNHCR, talked of a "major disaster" on the way in Kosovo. He said that funds for humanitarian aid are urgently needed but was pessimistic about the prospects.

Around 15 per cent of Kosovo's two million population are reckoned to have been forced out of their homes, and Mr Janowska warned: "We're running out of time. Winter is just around the corner."

The pressures have already spilled beyond Kosovo. Tiny neighbouring Montenegro, junior and increasingly restless partner in Mr Milosevic's rump Yugoslav federation, has received around 40,000 refugees in recent months. In addition, tens of thousands are still hiding in the woods, afraid to return home. Around 120 villages have been destroyed.

Despite the talk of mass graves, there is as yet no documented evidence of events comparable to the massacre of civilians in Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in 1995.

Orahovac in central Kosovo said that the number of those who died was probably closer to 100 than to the 600 claimed by the Albanians. Many of the Albanian civilians who died appear to have been shot as they attempted to flee the town when it was retaken by Serb forces from the Albanian guerrilla force, the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Another tragedy: Review, page 4

The US assistant secretary of state for human rights John Shattuck (far left), and the former US senator Bob Dole address a news conference in Belgrade yesterday. Senior US officials said they had seen horrendous human rights violations during a tour of the battle zones of Kosovo. Emil Vas/EPA

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE
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(Local Ref No. 22222)
Eve in flight or severe fade
Death case with friendly care
The opening had to Heaven carry'd
And bade it Mornes there
Source: Totem Colours

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our many friends and supporters, we are able to bring peace, care and comfort to the terminally ill so that death may indeed "come with friendly care".
St. Joseph



Row over French minister's coma

SIX DAYS after a cabinet minister fell into a coma during routine surgery, France is starting to ask questions about what happened to Jean-Pierre Chevènement and why.

"France" includes the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, who has complained privately that doctors at the premier French military hospital are starving him of information on his friend's condition.

It also includes the influential newspaper *Le Monde*, which led its front page yesterday on the many unanswered questions about Mr Chevènement's medical "accident". The newspaper also demanded an "exhaustive,

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

independent inquiry". As *Le Monde* pointed out, the secrecy surrounding the Interior Minister's near-fatal reaction to an anaesthetic (the news was suppressed for 24 hours) has generated some far-fetched rumours.

It is no coincidence, some mutter darkly, that Mr Chevènement, 59, leader of the populist *Mouvement des Citoyens*, was taking an unusually tough line with the Corsican independence movement and its Mafia-like activities. Others suggest, more reasonably, that the



Jean-Pierre Chevènement (left) is a friend and political ally of the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin

secrecy is part of a self-serving cover-up by the medical establishment.

The town hall at Belfort in eastern France, where Mr Chevènement was born and was mayor for 14 years until last year, has been swamped by phone calls. "They think the media is not telling them the whole truth," said the present mayor, Jacky Drouet, an ally of the ailing minister.

Mr Chevènement has been in a coma since last Wednesday, after going into the Val-de-Grâce military hospital for a routine operation to remove his gall bladder. Officially, he is said to be improving slowly but is being kept unconscious to

enhance his chances of full recovery.

Concern deepened yesterday when the Education Minister, Claude Allègre, a man known for speaking his mind, contradicted this official version of events. He said that Mr

Chevènement's condition was "stationary and alarming".

According to *Le Monde*, the Prime Minister has told members of his office that he is not receiving "enough" information from the military doctors.

The Interior Minister's loss – even temporarily – would be a serious blow to Mr Jospin. As leader of a centre-left faction allied to Mr Jospin's Socialist Party, Mr Chevènement is one of the most important jigsaw pieces in the pink-red-green coalition that has been ruling France since June last year.

His "Citizen's Movement", founded in 1992, is Eurosceptic, conservative on social issues and leftist on the econ-

omy. It is largely through his influence that the Jospin government has taken a tough line on immigration and law and order. In return, Mr Chevènement has backed the administration's pro-European Union and pro-EMU policies.

The Interior Minister had planned to be back at his desk within a week. Doctors at the hospital said he suffered a massive allergic reaction to curare, which was part of the anaesthetic. His heart stopped beating for more than an hour and he went into a coma.

He has not recovered consciousness. Medical bulletins say he is no longer in a coma, in the proper sense, but is

Truckers' chaos may trigger EU controls

THE EUROPEAN Commission will promise tough new rules restricting hours for transport workers if today's strike of European truck drivers wrecks a deal between unions and management.

The intervention comes as British travellers brace themselves for lengthy delays, particularly in France, brought about by a day of action to highlight conditions in the industry. The militant French truckers plan action on the borders, which could effectively seal off the country for 24 hours. They are also promising go-slows, convoys and "filters" when other drivers are stopped, picked up and allowed to pass.

The promise of new transport regulations, under the controversial Working Time Directive (WTD), will alarm Eurosceptics and industry employers, particularly in the UK.

The new package of measures is likely to stipulate minimum rest periods for drivers in all 15 European member states, but fall short of a blanket 48-hour week in an industry where work patterns are irregular. Transport workers, with junior doctors, were initially exempted from the terms of the directive, which lays down a maximum 48-hour week for most workers.

However, the Commission, which is anxious to impose uniform regulations among European hauliers, later suggested that office staff and other so-called "non-mobile" transport workers should be covered by the directive.

It also called for a negotiated agreement for the remaining workers between unions and management. These, more sensitive, talks are due to come to a head on 18 September.

Today Neil Kinnock, Transport Commissioner, and Padraig Flynn, Employment and

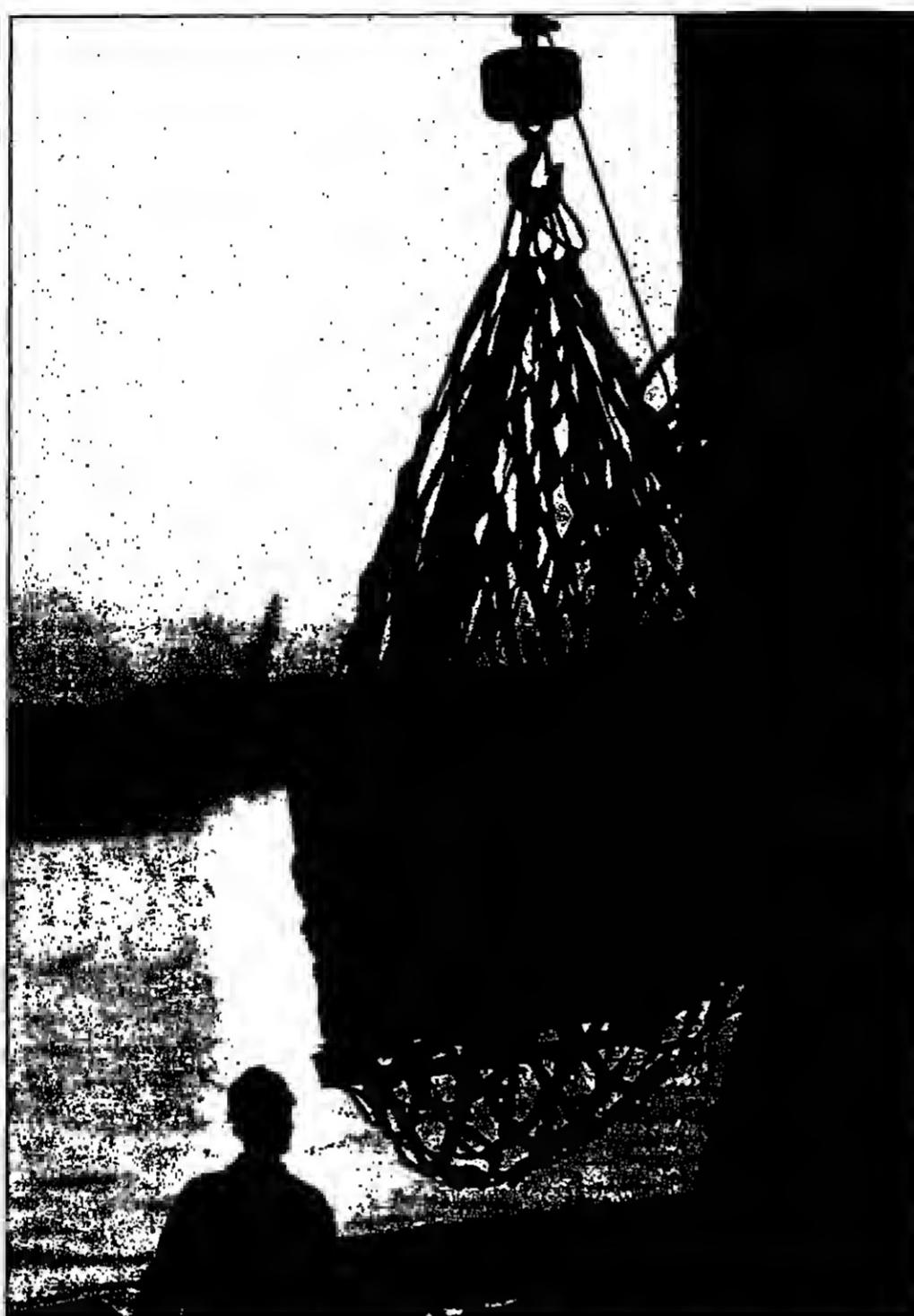
BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND
KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

Social Affairs Commissioner, will promise their own action if a deal is not done. "If they fail to conclude this agreement we will have to step in because it is a very important sector," a Commission spokesperson said yesterday. In Brussels there was some surprise at the timing of today's industrial action as negotiations were proceeding ahead of the crucial 18 September meeting. But there was optimism that the deal could be struck, despite today's action. Commission officials described it as a "day-long strike designed to make a point" and played down the prospect of a prolonged blockade.

Union sources suggested an agreement may be reached that would limit the working week to an average of around 60 hours, reflecting the more flexible structure of truck driving. But detailed negotiations are still under way to clarify if time spent, for example, waiting to clear Customs should count towards the total. Unions argue the action had been called to draw attention to conditions in the industry, especially driver fatigue, blamed on unregulated hours, but not linked directly to the wider talks.

In Britain Daniel Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association (RHA), said: "What we wish to ensure is better enforcement of existing negotiations before introducing more regulations which would be difficult... to enforce."

The RHA also wants to know what the Commission will do if "the unions do not feel that their demands have been met". The Commission, which has a duty to ensure free movement, said yesterday that it will monitor the situation on blockades.

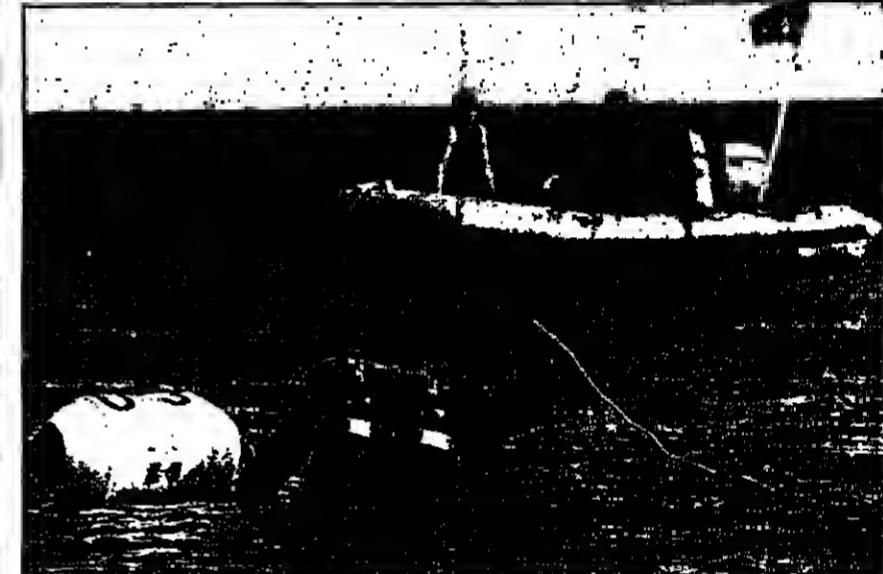


Left: A Canadian Coast Guard vessel unloads boxes of debris recovered from the Swissair jet in Halifax. Right: Divers prepare for a further search

Reuters, AP



The flight recorder of Swissair flight 111 inside a cooler at a hangar at the Transportation Safety Board building in Ottawa, Canada



Right: Divers prepare for a further search

Reuters, AP

Navy traces signals from second black box

CANADA'S NAVY said yesterday it was confident it had detected the signal from Swissair flight 111's second black box, the cockpit voice recorder. It was picked up by submarine, a navy spokesman said.

The news came a day after divers found the plane's other black box, the flight-data recorder, which was flown to an Ottawa laboratory for checks. If it is in good condition, it may help to explain why the jumbo

jet crashed late last Wednesday, killing all 229 people aboard.

The latest developments come amid signs that the disaster-trebling Swiss national airline has reopened wounds between the country's francophone western part and the German-speaking eastern part of the country.

An editorial in *Le Matin*, a popular western Swiss daily, at

the weekend called one Swissair's director a "snooty little boss, an operetta colonel". The newspaper claimed Philippe Bruggisser ignored French-speaking sensitivities when he favoured German language media while organising a simulation of the effect of smoke in an aircraft cockpit – thought to be one of the origins of the emergency that struck the New York to Geneva flight. The paper also accused Mr Bruggisser

of speaking exclusively in Swiss-German and English during press conferences.

The paper criticised the airline's decision to organise meetings in Zurich, Geneva and New York next Friday as an attempt to undermine another service held in French-speaking Geneva's cathedral.

The comments betray the resentment of the national airline in western Swiss media, which regard Swissair as the epitome

of Germanic economic dominance and arrogance. The airline's headquarters are in Zurich, the country's economic capital, with management dominated by Swiss-Germans.

In April 1996, Francophones reacted with fury when Swissair decided to centre all its intercontinental flights on Zurich as part of a cost-cutting drive. Geneva was left with a few European destinations, the New York flight and a new

shuttle service to Zurich for connecting flights. It was regarded as a betrayal in the western city, which relies on a wide range of air links to attract international organisations.

German is the native language of 64 per cent of the population, French of 19 per cent.

Another by-product of the two-year-old rivalry launches on Thursday. A new airline, based in Geneva, Swiss World Airways, starts flights to New York.

Worried Bavarians may abandon Kohl

BAVARIA'S RESTLESS conservatives threatened yesterday to declare UDI from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) should they form a coalition government with the Social Democrats after this month's federal elections.

With less than three weeks to polling day, the latest blast from the south will only add to the general feeling that the government's troops are in disarray. The Christian Social Union (CSU), an independent party in Bavaria that is incorporated into Chancellor Kohl's

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

group in the federal parliament in Bonn seems to be admitting the possibility of defeat.

Opinion polls persistently show the rival Social Democrats leading the CDU-CSU block by between 3 and 5 percentage points. If the figures stay the same, after 27 September the new Chancellor will be Gerhard Schröder, who may have to form a "grand coalition" with his current adversaries.

The Bavarians would not tolerate that. "It would, of course, mean the end of our relationship if the CDU were to enter a coalition with the SPD," said Michael Glos, CSU leader, in an interview on German radio.

A split between the CDU and its more right-wing sister party would herald the biggest realignment in German politics since the Second World War. But "everyone knows it is inconceivable", Mr Kohl retorted. "The CDU and CSU have en-

joyed a close and proven alliance" the corner-stone of our republic".

The Bavarians do not quite see it that way. With elections coming up this Sunday to their regional assembly, they have been trying to put as great a distance between themselves and the Chancellor as possible. The impression emerging from Munich is the Bavarians have given up on Mr Kohl's chances of re-election and feel his record in government will damage their own prospects at home.

Their prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, is also insulted by the way Mr Kohl is handing his succession, picking his loyal and competent lieutenant, Wolfgang Schäuble, to take over the reins in a distant future. Mr Stoiber thinks there is a far better candidate: himself.

Mr Stoiber and his colleagues will no doubt strike a friendly tone with their Bonn allies after Sunday's Bavarian vote, and their expected comfortable victory might even put some wind in Mr Kohl's sails.

IN BRIEF

Burmese military hold opposition politicians in wave of arrests

THE MILITARY government of Burma arrested 110 members of the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party. The National League for Democracy said yesterday that 50 elected MPs were among those detained in a wave of arrests, which have so far taken place mainly in provinces outside of Burmese capital, Rangoon.

Maltese put EU entry on agenda

THE EUROPEAN Union said it expected Malta to re-apply for EU membership after the election victory of the Nationalist Party. Final results of the weekend polls showed the Nationalists with 51.8 per cent of the vote, to 48.2 for Labour. The Nationalist leader, Eddie Fenech Adami, said EU entry was top of his agenda.

Rioters burn Chinese shops

RIOTING ERUPTED in the town of Kebumen in central Java in Indonesia yesterday, with a mob setting ablaze 20 shops owned by ethnic Chinese. Troops were brought in from nearby towns to try to restore order.

Taliban ready for talks with Iran

THE AFGHAN Taliban movement said its border with Iran was calm but fighters remained on alert after a huge Iranian military build-up. The Islamic militia said it was ready to hold talks about Iranian nationals detained by the Taliban.

Hun Sen cracks down on protests

CAMBODIA'S STRONGMAN, Hun Sen, ordered an end to weeks of protest against his rule and said his opponent, Sam Rainsy, would be arrested. One man was killed when police fired shots to disperse 600 people gathered outside the hotel where Mr Rainsy was taking refuge.

BEWARE OF postmen bearing clipboards. Big Brother, Germans have discovered, is the man or woman with the friendly smile who delivers letters.

Germans, many of whom still recall the file-gathering habits of the Gestapo and Stasi, have been scandalised by revelations that the post office has put together a database covering just about every citizen. The information is being sold to advertisers.

Nobody asked why postmen were taking notes during their rounds until an innocuous article in the post office's in-house magazine revealed all. In the new commercial spirit, the company announced, it had launched a new service: snooping on demand.

Who else, but the people who visit every home in the land, can find out more about the habits of its citizens? The task may be great, but in the postal worker the post office has vast resources. The post office has created 56 categories of Germans, based on their purchasing power and consumption habits of the residents, its brochure boasts.

No doubt advertisers are impressed, but Germans are scandalised by this sort of thing, and have laws against it. Germany has some of the most restrictive regulations on the protection of individual data, preventing, for instance, its own spying apparatus from efficient snooping.

The answers are invaluable to a company selling lawnmowers, for instance. Or to a car dealership, or just about anyone wanting to sell something. Properly collated, the post office's latter-day Domest Day Book can let advertisers zoom in on big-spenders and stop wasting time on the poor.

The post office itself is anything but modest about the power of its "unique" investigations. "The data on places of residence can be combined with socio-demographic and statistical aspects, for instance with age, purchasing power and consumption habits of the residents," its brochure boasts.

The head of the national data protection agency is now investigating.

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Russian crisis: 'We're at the edge,' says Chernomyrdin as Duma rejects him for PM and rouble continues free fall

Yeltsin's choice is thrown out again

RUSSIA'S AGONY deepened last night when parliament thrust the country into yet another week of political limbo by defeating Boris Yeltsin for a second time and rejecting Viktor Chernomyrdin as premier.

As the rouble fell still further, and food shortages turned from a painful memory into reality, the Duma remained unmoved in its opposition to the acting prime minister, voting 273-138 against confirming him in office. Restless, hurling and unstable, Russia is entering a third week without a government.

President Yeltsin's parliamentary opponents were unimpressed by an appeal from Mr Chernomyrdin, who told the Duma it is "the hours that count; we are at the edge, and could now lose time - and the country".

They were equally unim-

pressed by a revamped power-sharing offer outlined and signed in the hours before the vote by the de-litigated Mr Yeltsin at a meeting with parliamentary leaders in the Kremlin. He said he was willing to review his premier's performance after six months. But it was not enough.

At the heart of this damaging deadlock is a crisis of trust; the parliamentary opposition does not believe the president. They want his offers - for instance, to change the constitution and allow parliament to vet cabinet appointments - to come with concrete guarantees. Mr Yeltsin cannot, legally, give them.

Efforts by Mr Chernomyrdin - whose six years in office has



Russians selling possessions at a flea market in St Petersburg as the rouble slides. Right: Viktor Chernomyrdin, acting prime minister, in the Duma yesterday AP

tainted him deeply in the public eye - to win Russia round with an emotional television address on Sunday night failed embarrassingly. Yesterday as he sat moodily in the Duma, sandwiched by the interior and

defence ministers, he had a loser's air; the look of a man who has played his last card. His address to the chamber was subdued, even weary at times.

He trotted out his plan: lower taxes; a balanced budget; back

the rouble with hard currency reserves; nationalised alcohol production and so on, with little impact. Although his support rose by 44 votes against the first poll, he still suffered a 135-vote defeat. Most of the new support

came from Vladimir Zhirinovsky's nationalist party, the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Yeltsin now faces an ex-

tremely perilous calculation. There is one more vote to go on Mr Chernomyrdin in the Duma, which must take place within a week of his name being put forward again. The President could nominate him again, take the contest down to the wire, and hope the Duma places self-preservation above principle

and caves in. Or Mr Yeltsin could give in, lose face, deliver his hated parliamentary foes their most spectacular victory to date and nominate another candidate. Neither course will be easy.



Primakov emerges as Duma's front-runner

BY PHIL REEVES



THE RUSSIAN Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, emerged as a front-running candidate for prime minister yesterday should President Boris Yeltsin succumb to opposition demands that he dump Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The stoical but shrewd Mr Primakov has the backing of two important factions in the State Duma, which yesterday threw out Mr Chernomyrdin's nomination for a second time, condemning Russia to a third week of political limbo.

The prospect of the former head of foreign counter-intelligence as prime minister - a far more powerful position now, given Mr Yeltsin's weakness - is unlikely to win much applause from Western leaders, where he is viewed as a clever, unbending, diplomat who does not hesitate to challenge their interests.

But the liberal Yabloko party and the Communists have indicated they are willing to support him as an alternative candidate to the unpopular Mr Chernomyrdin in a third, final Duma vote. Yabloko's leader, Grigor Yavlinsky, was categorical. In a speech to the Duma, he named the minister as his party's "compromise", saying Russia need-

ed an authoritative premier, known to the world, unaffiliated to any party and with no ambitions to be president.

Until recently, any suggestion that the hang-dog, enigmatic Mr Primakov was in the running would have been met with dismissive guffaws by Moscow's resurgent army of Kremlinologists. Most of the money was - and much still is - on the swashbuckling mayor of Moscow, Yuli Lutzhkov.

Other possibilities include Yegor Gaidar, chairman of the Federation Council and the outsider, Yuri Maslyukov, the only Communist to serve in the Kiriyenko government.

But Mr Primakov has been quietly eased into the picture. He has been untainted by the bravos and endless horse-trading that characterise domestic politics in Moscow. And his credentials appeal to liberal democrats and the left.

Star of David rises in an anti-Semitic land

STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

IN ALL THE panic of the economic meltdown and fuss over President Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow last week, an important gesture by President Boris Yeltsin to try to unite Russians and - except neo-fascism - went largely unnoticed. Ageing, ailing and increasingly unloved, Mr Yeltsin found time on Wednesday to open a new synagogue and Holocaust museum in Moscow's Poklonnaya Gora memorial park.

"Human kind has no right to forget the lessons of history and to repeat tragic mistakes," he told participants at the opening ceremony, including Yuli Lutzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, and Natan Sharansky, once a Soviet prisoner-of-conscience and now Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry.

"It is bitter to see that our own home-grown fascists have emerged with their racial and national intolerance," Mr Yeltsin said.

My own Jewish friends welcomed the opening of the \$10m synagogue. But they were under no illusion that the addition of the Star of David to Moscow's skyline of red stars and Orthodox crosses would give the deep-rooted anti-Semitism in Russia.

"The Nazis will not change," said Solomon Moiseyev, a retired doctor who supplements his tiny pension by giving guided tours to foreigners. Solomon Moiseyev is not his

real name. He is afraid to give that, as recently he has been receiving threats from a petty Russian racketeer, perhaps just wanting to extort money, but probably also motivated by religious hatred.

Anti-Semitism is as strong in Russia today as it was in the rest of Europe before the Second World War - and not only among extreme rightists, who bomb synagogues and desecrate Jewish cemeteries. Because of Soviet propaganda, Russians in general are less aware than other peoples of the extent and horror of the Holocaust.

Perfectly pleasant Russian will come out with shocking views on the "Jewish question". As some Bolsheviks were Jewish, many Russians blame all Jews for Communism.

Just as in Western Europe, anti-Semitism became ingrained as the so-called "killers of Christ" were excluded from mainstream society, formed their own tight-knit community, and engaged in business, arousing envy.

In Tsarist times, Jews were not allowed to serve in the army or hold government posts, or to live in Moscow or St Petersburg. So they congregated in cities, like Kharbin and Odessa, becoming financiers, tailors or jewellers.

The Soviet authorities pursued anti-Semitic policies themselves. Even when Stalin

stopped purging the Jews and millions of other Soviet citizens, Jewishness was regarded as a nationality to be noted in a person's internal passport and Jews were passed over for the best educational opportunities and jobs.

Dr Moiseyev was able to enter medicine in the 1950s, but only in lowly epidemiology, improving sanitation.

In the 1970s, many Jews, persecuted for acts of faith such as teaching Hebrew, saw Israel as the answer, but ended up in limbo as "refusniks", denied visas to leave. I remember how Professor Naum Meiman watched his wife, Ima, die of cancer before her exit visa came through.

Not surprisingly thousands of Jews left at the first opportunity. But others, especially secular Jews, preferred to stay. Dr Moiseyev and his wife "left we were too old to start a new life all over again".

Those who stayed made grotesque efforts to be accepted. One converted to Russian Orthodoxy, a musician poured his energy into Celtic music and became thought of as being of Scottish origin.

Russia may be learning to accept its last one million Jews, but the synagogue-museum has to be locked up and under guard when Russians are revelling nearby, as I found at the weekend.

HELEN WOMACK

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Asia and strong pound hit Castrol

INTERIM PROFITS at Burmah Castrol fell 2 per cent as a stronger pound and weaker sales' growth in Asia undercut a global rise in its sales of Castrol-brand motor oils. The world's biggest maker of motor oils for passenger cars said its profits fell from £68.6m to £67.1m before one-time gains during the first half of this year. Stripping away the effects of the sterling, which it estimated cost it £14m, Burmah said its profit would have risen 9 per cent after taxes.

None the less, Tim Stevenson, the chief executive, said Burmah was still committed to expanding in Asia, especially China, which offers "tremendous scale and potential for growth". "If we could turn China into another India, there is the opportunity for some massive growth," he added. In India, Burmah's Castrol brand has market share of around 20 per cent. Burmah also announced a 14p dividend and confirmed its intention to return at least £250m to shareholders after April 1999.

After Dolly, PPL to work on pigs



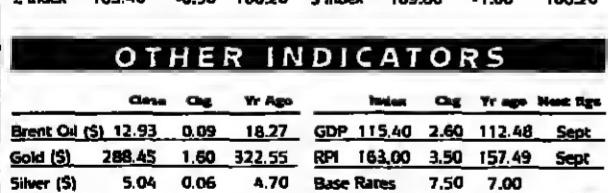
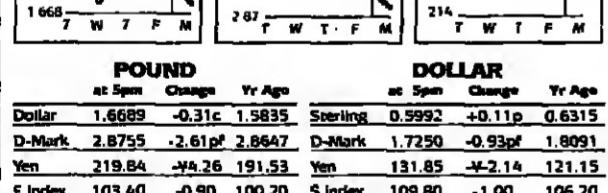
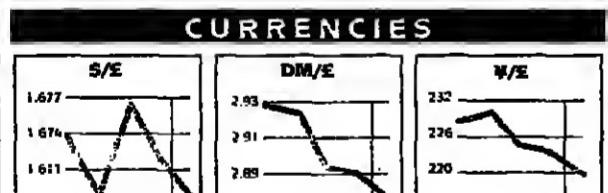
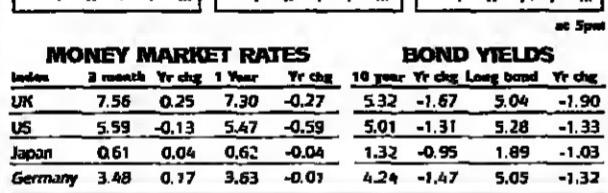
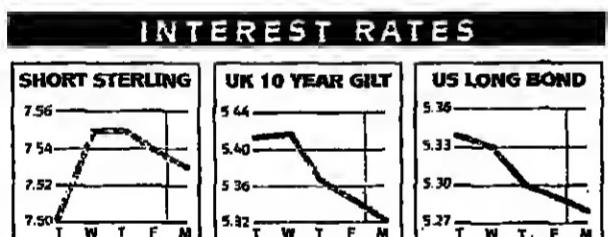
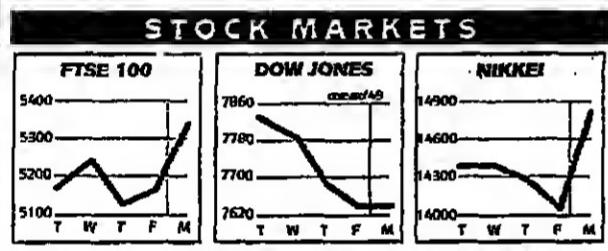
PPL Therapeutics, the group which cloned Dolly the sheep to produce high quality protein, hopes to beat rival pharmaceuticals group Novartis in cloning pigs so their hearts can be used for human transplants by 2005.

Reporting a £1.7m increase in pre-tax losses to £6.7m for the first half of the year Ron James, PPL's managing director, said that the next step would be to transplant pigs' kidneys into humans. He added that owing to an acute shortage of human organs, up to 2m patients could benefit from the use of pigs' hearts and kidneys. PPL shares rose 1.5p to 132p.

Alexon at £2.9m after Dolcis loss

PROFITS AT women's fashion retailer Alexon fell from £5.6m to £2.9m as Doldis, the shoe chain, bought from Sears last year reported a £4.4m operating loss. Luton-based Alexon said that the streamlining of Dolcis and the broadening of its product range would only begin to reap benefits in the second half of year.

The group, which pre-tax profits for the 26 weeks to 1 August (excluding Dolcis) rose 24 per cent to £5.9m, also said it was planning to open 12 stores under its Ann Harvey and Kaliko banners during the year. Ann Harvey specialises in larger-fitting womenswear, while Kaliko, caters mainly for women in their thirties. The new stores will be "greenfield" openings, said a spokesman.



Brown scraps plan to raise an extra £3bn from oil tax

THE CHANCELLOR Gordon Brown last night suffered an embarrassing U-turn when he bowed to overwhelming pressure from the oil industry and dropped plans to raise up to £2bn by tightening the North Sea tax regime.

The Government had intended to produce a consultation document for the oil and gas industries in the budget in March.

However, since then the oil price has continued to languish at 25-year lows, making it hard for the Government to persist with its arguments in favour of

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

taxing an industry whose profits were already being badly squeezed.

"The Government has been monitoring changes in oil prices and I have concluded that at the current level of oil prices, it would not be right at this stage to proceed with reform of the regime," Mr Brown said.

The decision to shelve the review comes days before the closure of the 18th North Sea oil exploration licence round.

Industry sources said that oil exploration activity in the North Sea had all but dried up over the past 12 months, with the added uncertainty generated by the prospect of higher taxes compounding the effect of oil trading at the lowest levels for a generation.

Wood Mackenzie, the Edinburgh-based oil industry consultancy, estimated that if the government gone ahead with the introduction of a supplementary corporation tax of around 10 per cent and a reintroduction of the Petroleum Revenue Tax, the value of the assets held by oil companies in the North Sea would have been hit to the tune of £3bn.

It was assumed in the industry that the Government was hoping to raise around £1bn a year from the changes.

The Government was also becoming increasingly sensitive to the concerns in Scotland about the damage a tougher tax regime could do to employment in the industry. A total of 380,000 work in the UK oil industry, of which around a third are employed in Scotland.

Last week's 85 per cent

slump in profits at Enterprise Oil, the UK independent, underscored the real pain being felt by the UK industry.

BP, Britain's largest integrated oil company and the one which stood to lose most from any changes in the North Sea tax regime, last night welcomed the move.

"We look forward to a period of stability in the UK's tax system which will help encourage investment in Britain's oil and gas industry in what is already a very difficult low price environment," said a spokesman.

BP recently shelved plans to develop the Clair field west of Shetland, while scores of other smaller projects were on hold.

James May, director general of the UK Oil & Gas Association, said: "There was no spare taxable capacity in the UK oil industry. It has to be the right decision," he said.

Mr Brown's decision to drop the scheme will remove one potential new source of revenue to fund government spending plans at a time when the outlook for tax revenue generally is looking less promising because of the forecast economic downturn.

Shares soar on rates cut hopes

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

SHARES SOARED in London, Hong Kong and Tokyo yesterday as weekend remarks by the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, which indicated he would be ready to cut interest rates if necessary, put some bounce back into jaded stock markets.

The FTSE 100 rose by 180 points to close at 5,347, its second-biggest rise in points terms. Shares were helped by growing hopes that UK interest rates are likely to fall. The latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey of UK fund managers showed that 98 per cent expect the next rate move to be down.

The pound slipped over two pence to DM2.8755 and half a cent to \$1.6685. The moves announced by Hong Kong over the weekend to reinforce its dollar peg also helped. Asian markets made the biggest gains: Hong Kong's Hang Seng closed up 588.29 points at 8,076.76, a 7 per cent jump, and Tokyo's Nikkei jumped 747.15 points, more than 5 per cent, to end at 14,790.

European markets had a more mixed day, partly reflecting the reluctance of the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer, to follow Mr Greenspan's lead.

Events in Russia continue to weigh on emerging markets, but their impact on the markets of the developed world has subsided. The UK government has confirmed that it is hosting a meeting of senior finance and foreign ministry officials from the Group of Seven nations in London this weekend.

Not all the news was good. Fitch IBCA, the debt rating agency, said last night that it expected foreign banks to announce further losses in Russia. The agency reckons the total debt owed by Russia to the private sector is now more than \$125bn and that \$100bn of it will not be seen again, making it the biggest-ever loss suffered by private sector creditors.

Yesterday the Russian central bank governor, Sergei Dubinin, said as the ruble slumped another 10 per cent to 18.9 to the dollar taking the fall since the crisis began to nearly 70 per cent. Prospects of a resolution seemed as distant as ever with the parliament again rejecting President Yeltsin's choice of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

The all-share merger, which could be announced early next week, would be a reverse takeover with Booker buying Budgens and Budgens' chief executive, John von Spreckelsen, emerging as head of the enlarged business.

Budgens expects to complete its due diligence by Thursday, when Booker announces its half-year results.

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

2004, be said. Over the next 20 years there will be a market for more than 1,300 aircraft, worth more than 220bn.

Dismissing claims from rival manufacturer Boeing that there is no need for such a large aircraft, Airbus said that from

2004 onward the A3XX is set to become the standard-setter for long-range travel.

The new airliner is vital to the future of the Airbus consortium, Mr Foregaard said. The economic benefits of the project would last for 40 years and bring in nearly £20bn in export orders.

Earlier the German economics minister, Gunther Rexrodt, said the German government would like to see the super-jumbo jet built in the east German city of Rostock.

Plans to convert Airbus from a partnership into a single limited company which could be floated on the stock markets have slipped until the middle of 2004.

The plans have been held up by the reluctance of two of the partners, BAE and Daimler-Benz Aerospace, to form a joint company before the third key partner, Aerospatiale, is privatised.

But a DASA spokesman

yesterday denied French fears that it would merge with BAE without Aerospatiale.

Airbus yesterday confirmed a 3 per cent rise in its aircraft prices to follow a 5 per cent increase announced by Boeing.

Harry Stonecipher, Boeing's president, yesterday apologised to customers for delayed deliveries which are blamed on the company's arrogance and self-satisfaction.

Booker confirms Budgens talks

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

BOOKER, the struggling cash-and-carry chain, confirmed yesterday that it is in merger talks with the Budgens supermarket group.

The news pushed shares in both companies lower as analysts criticised the logic of the deal.

The City was also critical of Booker's plans to merge with Somerfield before those plans were abandoned last week. Most said the Budgens deal had even less merit.

"Booker must be pretty desperate to be considering this. There cannot be any other offer on the table," one analyst said. Another commented: "At least Somerfield brought scale to the deal."

Analysts said Booker's

shares fell nearly 10 per cent to 170p as analysts said the commercial benefits of the merger were unclear. Budgens shares edged a penny lower to 75.25p.

The City was also critical of Booker's plans to merge with Somerfield before those plans were abandoned last week. Most said the Budgens deal had even less merit.

"Booker must be pretty desperate to be considering this. There cannot be any other offer on the table," one analyst said. Another commented: "At least Somerfield brought scale to the deal."

Analysts said Booker's



John von Spreckelsen: to head both businesses

form of £5bn of buying power). This deal does not even have that."

Booker denied weekend

speculation that it is danger of breaching its banking covenants, and it is thought that Budgens advisers, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, have not found a "black hole" in the high-street competitor.

However, some analysts remained pessimistic about Booker's finances. "A merger would seem like the only way out for Booker. They have got to the point where trading has become so critical they do not really have an alternative," said Crédit Lyonnais analyst Sally Jones.

"I would not be surprised if they had breached their banking covenants," she added.

Analysts said Booker's

corner shop customers would be unhappy with the deal as they would be relying on supplies from a cash-and-carry group effectively owned by a key high-street competitor.

When Somerfield broke off talks with Booker last month, a potential backlash from Booker's corner-shop customers was cited as one of the reasons.

Analysts said the merger was an expensive way for Booker to find a new chief executive.

Booker denied that the job had been offered to Andrew Rolfe, 32, a Booker director who left to become chief executive of the Pret a Manger sandwich chain last week.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE FTSE-100 yesterday recorded its second-largest points rise, boosted by hints that the US Federal Reserve may lower rates and by large overnight bounces in Tokyo and Hong Kong.

The benchmark index closed up 180 points, or 3.4 per cent, to 5,347.00 – within a whisker of its 181-point record rise achieved in August. The smaller indices were also higher, with the FTSE-250 jumping 83.8 to 4747.1 and the small cap rising 15.7 to 2084.9.

Rates for indication purposes only

FRANKFURT

AN OVERNIGHT rally in Asian stocks and hints that US rates could soon fall helped German shares to end around 23 per cent higher, with the DAX closing up 103 points at 4,923.4, and the electronic Xetra ending up 80.8 points at 4,845.7.

Banks were marked higher, despite their exposure to Russia, after hints from Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, that US rates could be cut sooner than expected. Dresdner Bank leapt 4 per cent.

TOKYO

Stopping BSkyB will not be so easy

EVERYONE'S GOT a view on whether Rupert Murdoch's Sky should be allowed to take over Manchester United, and outside his own newspaper and TV interests, they are mainly negative in the extreme. The task facing regulators is to disentangle this web of hostility which is partly emotional in nature, from the real competition and public interest issues raised by Mr Murdoch's latest assault.

Is he going to be allowed to do this, or isn't he? The answer is probably yes, for this is not a clear-cut case and it is hard to see what grounds the competition authorities would have for stopping him.

To many, Mr Murdoch is still a demon focused unrelentingly on world domination. Manchester United, on the other hand, is a much loved national treasure. For these people it's like his acquisition of *The Times* all over again. Yet it would plainly be bad policy to block BSkyB for this reason alone.

Love him or loathe him, Mr Murdoch occupies an important commercial position in Britain, provides thousands of jobs and has brought about a revolution both in the newspaper industry and commercial TV. He therefore deserves



OUTLOOK

as fair a hearing as anyone else. Policy cannot be dictated by the mob, however much Mr Murdoch's interests are sometimes responsible for whipping it up.

At the same time, however, Mr Murdoch is also a monopolist by nature and instinct, and his motives therefore demand the closest possible scrutiny. So what does Sky hope to get out of Man United? Its motives appear a mixture of the defensive, pre-emptive and tactical. Live coverage of premier league games is Sky's most lucrative single source of revenue. That contract comes up for renegotiation in 2002, and having Man United? in the same stable could provide an important bar-

gaining chip, if only because the League might find it difficult to cut a deal with anyone else without the support of Manchester United.

The Office of Fair Trading is meanwhile planning to bring the present arrangement between the League and Sky before the Restrictive Practices Court next year. Should that judgement go against the League, and clubs are forced to sell TV rights individually, rather than collectively as a cartel, then again Sky would be sitting pretty as owner of the club everyone wants to play. And finally Sky is always in the market for high quality pay per view content for its new digital platform. Manchester United is nothing if not that.

The first two of these motives will give the Office of Fair Trading enough cause for concern to order a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, possibly as part of a wider probe into the sort of issues that will be explored by the Restrictive Practices Court next year. But of themselves, they seem too tangible and complex to block the deal altogether.

There are no clear cut competition issues in this combination, only the more difficult ones raised

by vertical integration. Given that broadcasting throughout the world is highly integrated in precisely this fashion, it is not easy to see what grounds there are for preventing it here. If this had been anything other than the explosive combination of Murdoch, TV and football, it would scarcely have raised an eyebrow.

Is there any possibility of counter bidders? Man United? holds much the same attractions to Britain's fledgling alternative pay TV service, OnDigital, as it does to Sky. But it seems unlikely that either of OnDigital's shareholders, Carlton and Granada, would be prepared to make that kind of financial commitment, notwithstanding the fact that Granada is the ITV franchise holder for the Manchester area and already has commercial links with the club.

Granada once before considered buying Manchester United, but it rejected the case then when the club was worth only a fraction of what it is now. It must think how much harder it would be to justify to its shareholders today. Nor would Man United? be worth as much to a financial purchaser, such as Joe Lewis's ENIC, as it would to Sky.

Mr Murdoch's gainings are likely to be a reverse takeover, with Booker taking over Budgens but being run by Budgens' chief executive John von Spreckelsen - in other words, a management buy-in. This is all fine and dandy for Mr von Spreckelsen, but as we have said

here before, it all looks a rather complicated, and expensive way of going about finding a new management team.

If the deal with Somerfield was a hard one to swallow, this one is even harder. At least with Somerfield the merger had the merit of scale. The logic was that the combined buying power of £11bn would be sufficient to bring out significant cost savings from suppliers. With Budgens' synergies would be far lower, say £30m a year, though Budgens' trading link with Rewe, the German retail giant, might help bring down Booker's cost base.

There is also the risk of alienating Booker's core corner shop customers, who have understandable concerns that Booker would favour its Budgens subsidiary over other customers. Budgens admitted this was a worry with the Somerfield deal, but now it seems prepared to these concerns aside.

All this seems to indicate that Booker is desperate. To even contemplate a deal like this must mean not only that there is no other buyer in town, but also that the Booker board has no idea how to pull itself out of the mire.

But that does not necessarily

mean that any deal is better than none. For £120m the cost of Budgens to Booker shareholders, Booker could go out and recruit the most incentivised management team in the land. Not that it should have to. Any competent executive should surely be capable of pushing through the company's stated strategy of selling off the non cash & carry businesses and improving margins.

Booker's own management may well have run out of ideas. Indeed that much now seems certain. But its board - and its highly paid advisers - should be aware that you don't have to buy the company to secure the services of a decent chief executive.

North Sea oil

IS IT COINCIDENCE that the Government has abandoned its review of North Sea oil tax just as the polls show that the Scottish Nationalists are going to trounce Labour in the election? Or that with the oil price on its knees, the bidding for the 18th round of off-shore licences draws to a close with hardly a single blue-chip applicant? Surely not.

News Analysis: Pay, inflation and the economy are slowing – but the MPC looks unlikely to act yet

Clamour for interest rate cut swells

BY LEA PATERSON

THE BANK OF ENGLAND tomorrow begins its monthly two-day interest-rate setting meeting against a background of global financial turmoil and a slowing domestic economy. Calls for a rate cut grow louder with each day, and it is no longer only union leaders and industry bosses arguing the case for easier interest-rate policy.

Many City economists – several of whom were forecasting further rate rises just a few months ago – now believe the first interest-rate cut could come before year-end, although few believe the Bank will cut this week. And although there may be some debate about timing, the consensus is clear – the next move in rates will be down, not up. Base rates, according to the UK, have peaked at 7.5 per cent.

"We've been forecasting a cut in the fourth quarter for some time, although it might be premature to expect it this month," said Marian Bell of Royal Bank of Scotland. "If I were on the MPC [the Bank of England's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee] I'd certainly be starting to watch for the need for a cut."

Mark Wall at Deutsche Bank agreed the next move would be down, although he was more cautious about the timing. He said: "I do not see the MPC cutting rates this year, although there are huge uncertainties about the global economy."

According to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey, UK fund managers also see rate cuts ahead – 98 per cent expect the next move to be down, and none of the fund managers surveyed believed that rates would be higher one year from now.

The growing body of evidence suggesting that the domestic economy is slowing is one key factor behind the marked shift in City opinion.

Over the past month both the growth in average earnings and the inflation rate have fallen back, and there has been a raft of gloomy business surveys. Yesterday PricewaterhouseCoopers cut its forecast for 1998 UK GDP growth by 0.5 points to 1 per cent and argued that engineering, construction and textiles were particularly vulnerable to the downturn.

More evidence of the slowdown will come from the British Retail Consortium today. The BRC says August was another



The nine MPC members who meet this week to decide interest rates: (left to right) Dr DeAnne Julius; Professor Charles Goodhart; John the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George; David Clementi; Ian Plesnerleith; Professor Willem Butler; and Sir Alan Budd

disappointing month for retail sales, with the value of sales increasing by just 1.5 per cent on a like-for-like basis compared with a year earlier. While September's year-on-year growth rate is likely to be more positive – partly because sales last September were depressed by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales – the underlying trend is still firmly downward, according to the BRC.

Bridget Rosewell, the BRC's chief economic adviser, said: "The latest results strengthen

our view that consumers are cautious about their spending and that retail sales growth is generally weakening. Global economic factors do not suggest an early upturn."

But definite evidence of a weakening domestic economy is on its own, unlikely to be sufficient to persuade the Bank to cut rates just yet, say the experts. The underlying inflation rate may have fallen, but it is still above the 2.5 per cent target. The rate of earnings growth may have fallen back,

but it is still above the 4.5 per cent level the Bank considers incompatible with the inflation target. Many in the City believe unemployment needs to rise further before the Bank will feel comfortable cutting rates.

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "Until there is a sharp rise in unemployment, both pay pressures and the spectre of wage-push inflation will persist." Jonathan Lynnes at HSBC Securities agreed: "It is not yet clear that the domestic economy has slowed as far as

the hawks on the MPC would like," he said.

The recent fall in sterling, which yesterday shed over 2 pence to close at DM2.875, could also mean that rates stay higher for longer. Although few believe a weak pound would tip the balance in favour of another rate hike in the current environment, many think it could delay a cut.

"If the pound falls to the low DM2.80s any time soon it will strengthen the resolve of the Bank to keep rates on hold," said

Mark Wall of Deutsche Bank.

However, although the domestic situation on its own may not be sufficient to persuade the Bank to cut rates, a new factor has come into play over the past two weeks – the turmoil in the global financial markets. A few days ago Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, hinted that the Fed was considering an easier interest-rate policy amid concerns about the impact of the continuing emerging market turmoil on the global economy.

Indeed, in the wake of the 1987 crash the Fed and the Bank cut rates in a concerted attempt to settle the financial markets. Is a similar response likely this time round?

The consensus in the City is that it is too soon to say. Mc Bell said: "The Greenspan signal is, in my view, entirely sensible, but the UK does not feel the same sort of global responsibility as the US." Mr Wall at Deutsche said: "The answer is unknown, the in-

IN BRIEF

Swedish boost for Glaxo drug

SHARES IN Glaxo Wellcome, the world's second-biggest drug maker, rose 26p to 1,440p after it said it had won approval for Seretide, its treatment for asthma, in Sweden.

Sweden is the first country to approve the drug and will act as the reference state in the procedure to obtain approval in the European Union. Seretide is the first drug to allow asthma sufferers to achieve 24-hour control of the condition with a twice-daily dose from a single inhaler, Glaxo said.

Reinsurance fall

THE GLOBAL reinsurance industry had its best-ever year in 1997, but declining rates, falling demand and dwindling investment returns mean that the outlook for the sector is bleak, the ratings agency Standard and Poor's said yesterday.

"We can expect rates to fall between 5 and 10 per cent, and that's going to put some pressure on the industry," said S&P director, Don Watson.

He added that turmoil in world equities meant reduced underwriting results would not be buoyed up by investment returns.

Xenova offers

XENOVA is to raise \$1.3m to develop its drugs to treat cancer. The biotech company said it would sell 9.5 million "units" – comprising two new shares and one warrant – at 110p each. It will also sell warrants at 70p each to raise £8.7m by the end of 1999.

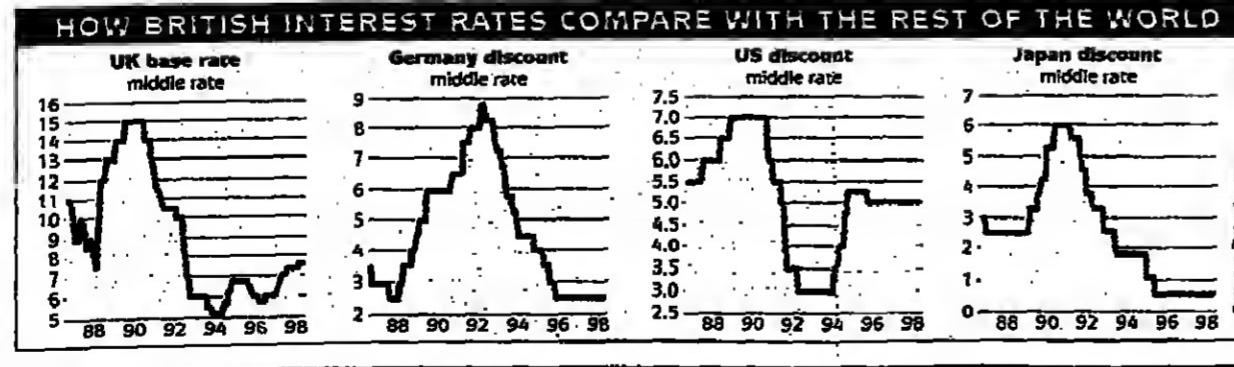
The offer is being fully underwritten by Xenova's broker, Greig Middleton, and is subject to shareholder approval at an extraordinary meeting scheduled for 30 September.

ABB contract

ABB ASEA BROWN BOVERI announced yesterday that it has won a turnkey contract valued at \$80m (£48m) from the Channel Islands Electricity Grid Co to build a new power grid.

Under the terms of the contract, ABB said it will link the electricity supply networks of Guernsey and Jersey islands in the English Channel to the European grid via France.

The project is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2000.



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Cadbury pays £46m to be Poland's chocolate leader

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionery and soft drinks group, took a further bite out of Poland's fast-growing chocolate market yesterday when it paid £46m for Wedel, the country's leading brand of confectionery.

The deal makes Cadbury market leader in Poland's chocolate market with a share of 28 per cent.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Chocolate sales in Poland have been growing at an annual rate of 17 per cent over the last seven years, making it one of Europe's fastest growing markets for chocolate bars.

Based in Warsaw, Wedel recorded sales of \$30m in 1997.

It employs 1,100 staff and last year relaunched its product range under the Wedel name. Cadbury claims that Wedel is "an icon" in Poland with a similar standing in Cadbury in the UK.

PepsiCo, which has invested almost \$500 million in Poland since 1991, withdrew Wedel from the Warsaw Stock Exchange in April after

increasing its stake to 99 per cent from 74 per cent. The US company wanted to divest the chocolate and biscuits portions of Wedel to focus globally on its beverage and salty snack businesses.

This deal consolidates Cadbury's position in Poland where it started manufacturing chocolate in 1993, spending 220m

developing a greenfield site. The Wedel business will be run in conjunction with Cadbury Poland.

Cadbury has been investing heavily in new markets both in Europe and the Far East. It opened its Russian manufacturing site in July 1997 and has so far invested 275m in the market, including a factory.

Sales have been affected by the recent economic turmoil in Russia, but Cadbury has said it is committed to the Russian market in the long term.

Cadbury has also invested 220m in China, having entered the market in 1993.

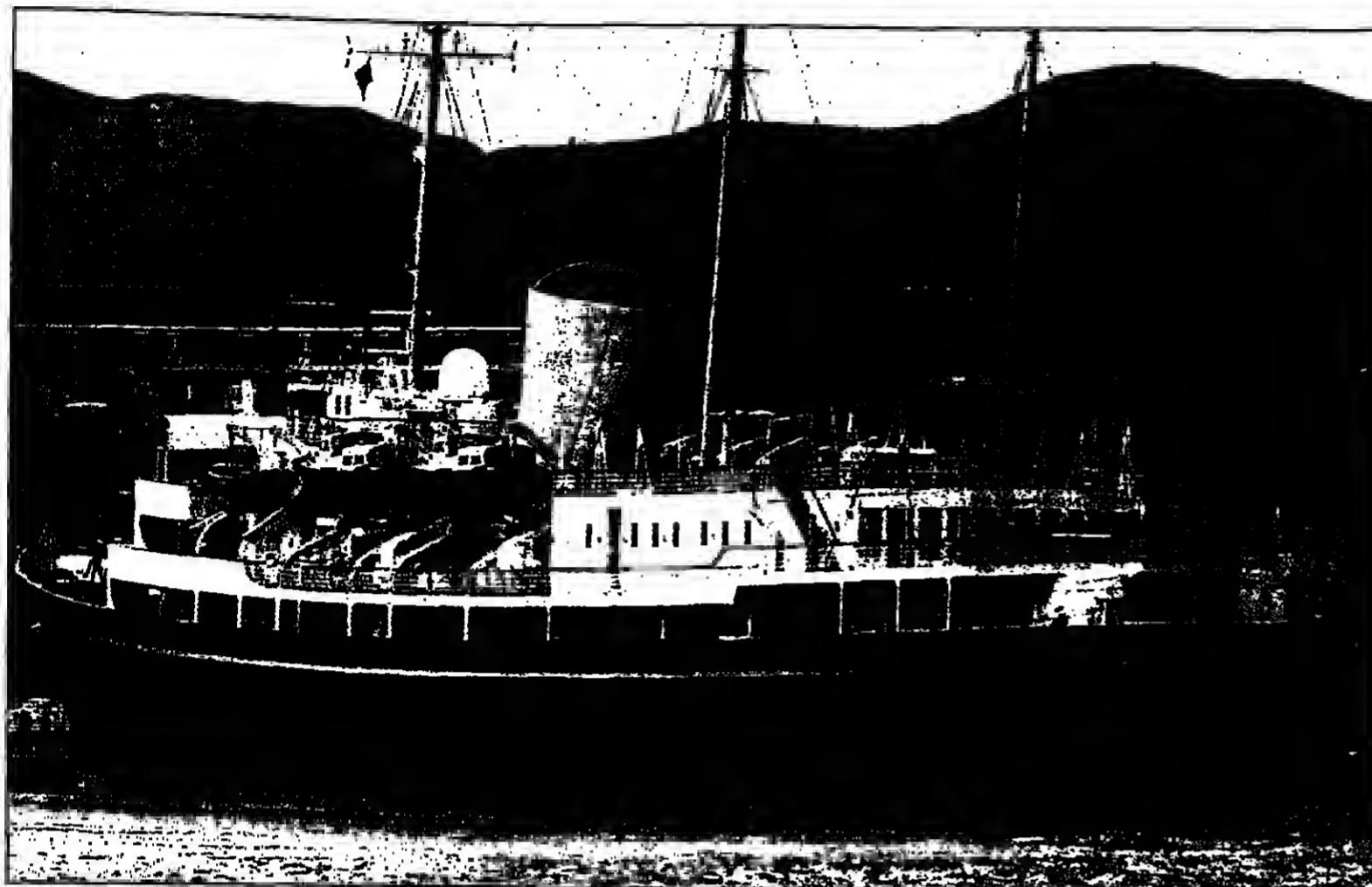
Cadbury Schweppes director Ian Johnston said: "The combination of Cadbury and Wedel

puts us in a strong position to generate added value for the group in this large developing market. The Wedel trade mark is a powerful asset in Poland, representing high quality, good value chocolate and is a good fit with our existing operation."

At the time of Cadbury's half-year results last month, Cadbury Schweppes' chief

executive, John Sunderland, said the company was looking to take advantage of falling asset prices around the world. The Far East is seen as a possible target as prices fall as a result of the economic turmoil in the region.

Cadbury Schweppes shares closed 24½p higher at 853½p after 856p.



The former Royal Yacht Britannia lies at berth in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle where Forth Docks will use her as a visitor attraction

Forth Docks sets date for Britannia

THE COMPANY awarded custody of the former Royal Yacht Britannia yesterday claimed it was well placed to handle any economic downturn.

Forth Ports is preparing to open the Britannia to the public on 19 October as part of an exhibition centre at Leith Docks in Edinburgh. Bill Thomson, Chairman, believes the world-famous ship should become a "significant visitor attraction".

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

The company, which was privatised and floated six years ago, yesterday announced pre-tax profits for the six months to 30 June up 17 per cent to £12.2 million. That includes a £0.46m exceptional gain on the sale of the Malmsten Hotel. Earnings per share increased 10 per cent to 21.0p per share, up from 19.1p per share in 1997.

Turnover rose 12 per cent to £50.2m and the company increased its interim dividend by 11 per cent to 5.0p.

Forth Ports owns and operates seven docks, mostly on the east coast of Scotland, including Grangemouth and Dundee, as well as Tilbury Docks on the Thames Estuary.

Mr Thomson said: "Forth Ports as a group is well placed to withstand any economic

downturn by virtue of its broad spread of activities in many different markets, both commodity and geographic."

In May the company was awarded custody of the former Royal Yacht Britannia by the Ministry of Defence. Forth Ports wants Britannia to draw visitors to Leith where it is building an Ocean Terminal, while proceeds from the vessel will go to a charitable trust.

"The first six months have been very encouraging, with all ports making a positive contribution to profits," said Bill Thomson, chairman of Forth Ports. "We have seen increases in our dry cargo tonnage as our recent capital investments come to fruition."

"Progress on the new Flamin Terminal is on schedule and operations will commence in January."

BILLITON YESTERDAY unveiled an innovative plan which allows the South African mining group to buy back shares and hold them in trust, allowing it to reissue them at a later date.

The scheme is a breakthrough for a London-listed company. Until now UK companies have had to cancel any shares they bought back.

The move gives Billiton the flexibility to gear up its balance sheet in the short term without preventing the company from using its shares to fund acquisitions in the future.

"This is not a blunderbuss approach. It is more like a rifle shot," said Billiton's chief executive, Brian Gilbertson.

The share buyback scheme is likely to generate substantial interest with British companies, who have been searching for a flexible way of buying back and reissuing shares in order to maintain an efficient balance sheet. In the US, where companies are allowed to hold their shares in treasury, firms buy and sell their own shares on a rolling basis.

The move came as Billiton launched a bid to buy out the 47.41 per cent of QNL, the Australian mining group, that it does not already own. The offer values the minority shareholding at A\$375m (£153m).

Billiton also reported a 4 per cent

increase in pre-exceptioal profits to \$335m (£200m) in the year to June, its first as a separately listed company. Turnover rose by 4 per cent to \$6.6bn.

Billiton's shares have had a torrid time since the company was spun off from Gencor, the South African gold mining group, and floated on the London Stock Exchange last summer. The group has been hit by the downturn in global commodity prices prompted by the Asian crisis. Yesterday, the shares closed up 4.5p at 126.5p.

The company, which has net cash of \$1bn on its balance sheet, has been under pressure to use the cash for acquisitions

or return it to shareholders. But Billiton was reluctant to carry out a conventional share buyback because it would have had to cancel the shares and then reissue them through a rights issue if it subsequently found a use for the cash. A share buyback would also have incurred a large tax liability.

Under the complex new scheme, Billiton uses a Dutch subsidiary to buy the shares, which are then placed in trust. When the time comes to release the shares, they are sold directly to fund managers.

"If we buy now and the share price goes up, Billiton makes a profit," said Chris Norval, Billiton's corporate finance manager and the man who devised the scheme. "But we don't want people to think we are taking a punt on our share price. It is to facilitate a transaction."

Mr Gilbertson said the company was constantly examining potential acquisitions but had not yet identified any suitable targets. "The market expects us to do something big and sexy. But with the projects we've looked at so far the time has not been right," he said.

The plan will be put to shareholders for approval at Billiton's annual meeting in October, after which it will be free to buy back shares.

Investment, page 17

British Vita captures Doeflex for £66m cash

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

BRITISH VITA, the acquisitive Manchester-based plastics manufacturer, yesterday announced a £65.9m cash bid for the rival plastic sheet maker, Doeflex.

Jim Mercer, the chief executive of British Vita, has been pressing Doeflex to accept a takeover deal for the past two years and discussions have been going on for some months.

But, after the stock market's recent falls, Doeflex's management has decided to accept the money now rather than wait another year for a substantial investment programme to benefit the bottom line.

The bid values Doeflex at 375p a share, 58 per cent higher than the shares' closing price on 27 August when the company announced it was in talks that could lead to a bid. It

is 15.6 times Doeflex's earnings of 24p per share in the year to the end of December 1997, although Doeflex also yesterday reported a 12 per cent rise in operating profit in the first half to 30 June and was expected to earn 26.5p a share in the current year.

British Vita has irrevocable acceptances for over 21 per cent of the shares and clinched its bid with market buying yesterday. The acquisition brings British Vita's total acquisition bill to £145m in the current year. Doeflex will be earnings-enhancing in the first year; British Vita said yesterday.

Doeflex has six plants making thermoplastic sheeting in the UK and one in Belgium. It has 500 employees. The busi-

ness makes an excellent fit with British Vita, both in terms of products and markets. However, there should still be cost savings of £2m to £3m over the next two years, largely resulting from the closure of the Doeflex head office.

British Vita announced a 9 per cent increase in sales and a 15 per cent jump in profits to £23.6m in the six months to 30 June, helped by its strong presence in continental Europe, where operating profits rose 30 per cent.

The cost of British Vita's raw materials has fallen, and although the pound remains strong the company's relevant exchange rates have deteriorated only slightly in the past year. The shares have fallen by a third in three months, but rallied yesterday to close at 330p.

The company is looking at a number of options, including a special dividend and a share buyback.

Philip Mengel, British Vita's chief executive, said: "We are reviewing our capital structure because we believe that our share is undervalued, cash generation is strong and growing, and gearing has been reduced."

City analysts welcomed the return of cash, saying that the move would be a partial compensation for the recent collapse in the company's share price. Ibsstock touched a four-year low of 63.5p on Friday, well below the 63.5p reached in March.

"Building materials companies have had a poor track record on the acquisition front," said one analyst. "I think it is absolutely right that Ibsstock should be giving money back to shareholders."

News of the return of cash came as uncertainty continues to surround the intentions of Brierley Investment Limited (BIL), Ibsstock's largest shareholder. The New Zealand-based investment fund has announced plans to scale back its European exposure, and analysts have speculated that Ibsstock could be on BIL's sale list. However, Mr Mengel said yesterday that BIL remained a "long-term investor in Ibsstock".

His comments came after Ibsstock reported a 80 per cent in interim pre-tax profit before exceptional to £15.3m on turnover up 8.2 per cent to £157.6m. The shares firmed 3½p to 43p.

Mr Mengel said he did not see any sign of the widely predicted economic slowdown.

Ibsstock
holders
to get
£60m

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Ibsstock, the UK's second largest building materials producer, is planning to reward its long-suffering shareholders with a cash handout worth up to £60m.

The company is looking at a

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A little bit of sparkle back in Footsie

UNCLE ALAN GREENSPAN came to the Footsie's rescue yesterday and helped the index to the second biggest jump in its history. The Fed chairman's hint that US rates may be on a downward slope soothed the index's frayed nerves and tempted back a selected group of buyers.

Volume was thin, though, as the Russian parliament vote on the prime minister and the closure of Wall Street conspired to keep trade subdued. Most of the big hitters are back from their holidays, but remained firmly on the sidelines yesterday, and witty souls in the City described the bounce as a "sellers' strike".

Footsie remained blissfully ignorant of these smears and powered ahead, closing up 130 to 5347.6, within a whisker of its 181-point record rise achieved on August 18. It was a sparkling performance, even better than the 142 point rebound which followed the 1987 crash. The second-liners hang on their Big Brother's coat-tails and finished with handsome advances. The medium cap finished 83.8 points ahead at 4747.1, while the small cap, that eternal under-

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

achiever, managed a 15.7 rally to 204.9.

Buying was confined to a small number of sectors, led by banks. Lloyds TSB proved the pick of the UK high-streeters, netting a 54.5p profit to 715p. Barclays was in good form, too, climbing 6.34p to 1,308p as traders started to put last week's Russian exposure shock behind them.

The Asian banks were given added sparkle by large overnight bounces in the Nikkei and Hang Seng indexes. HSBC Holdings,

the owner of Midlands Bank, got the better deal and closed up 10 per cent to 1,243p, the biggest riser in the Footsie. Standard Chartered followed suit, aided by some directors' share-buying, and closed 7.31 per cent higher at 448p.

The chosen few who decided to buy were also interested in telecoms. Vodafone, the mobile phone operator, rang up a 9.4 per cent increase to 305p, as rumours of a tie-up with the US giant AirTouch filled the City's airwaves. Cable & Wireless was busy too. It ended up 4p to 627p, unabated by a denial of a rumour of de-up with Telecom Italia and US West.

SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca flew the flag for the pharmaceuticals. SB finished a healthy 57p higher to 762p on, yes you've guessed it, renewed rumours of a link-up with arch-enemy Glaxo Wellcome. Zeneca, the sector's favourite takeover target, rose 122p to 2,314p on vague talk of corporate activity.

BskyB's attempt to takeover Manchester United football club provided much of the excitement in the undercard. The Red Devils scored 30 per cent to 206.5p, topping the FTSE-250 league of risers, but ended up still below Sky's mooted 225p-a-share offer.

The media group controlled by Rupert Murdoch was also in the picture and rose 14.75p to 476.75p.

Entic, the leisure group, which could be Mr Murdoch's bitter rival in the battle of Old Trafford, was up 9.5p to 128.5p. They are not com-

peting on a counterbid, but the market seems convinced that it will come soon.

The real comeback kids of the day were the other Footsie stocks, which have been badly battered in recent times. Rumours of takeovers and mergers in the usually sleepy sector propped up many a bombed-out stock. Newcastle United was up 5p to 67.5p, Tottenham Hotspur scored a 4p victory to finish at 64p, while Aston Villa, one of the hottest takeover candidates, soared 32.5p to 61.5p. British Vita contended the top spot in the FTSE-250, and in the end closed 13 per cent higher to 230p after announcing a bid for rival plastic group Doeplex.

The Footsie rejig, due on Wednesday, continued to muddy water Lasmo, the oil explorer, lost another 2 per cent to close at 155p.

At close of play the widely-expectec relegation to the FTSE-250 duly arrived. Tomorak, the maker of futuristic gearbox which demerged from BTG two months ago made way for Lasmo in the mid-cap and moved to the small cap. The shares had closed up higher at 183.5p.

But the real story is Telewest. The cable operator could be a surprise inclusion in the benchmark index. A share conversion following its deal with General Cable will push Telewest's market cap above £1bn, well beyond the Footsie threshold. The shares firmed 3.75p to 35.75p.

A few dots of red in yesterday's sea of blue caught the eye. Rentokil Initial tumbled 5p to 347p, after CSEB said "sell". Booker, the cash-and-carry business, locked in merger talks with the supermarket, fell 18p to 170p, after Credit Lyonnais turned negative on the no-premium deal.

Dewhurst, the clothing and toiletries group which supplies Marks & Spencer, had a horrible day. A fall in interim profits and a warning on full-year operating earnings saw the stock end almost 13 per cent lower at 105.5p.

Hazelwood fell 4p to 179.5p after BT Alex Brown warned that falling tonnage prices and poor summer trading will affect profits.

SEQA VOLUME: 735.3m

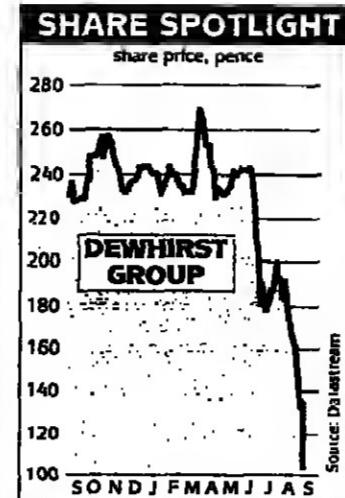
SEQA TRADES: 54.511

GILT INDEX: N/A

IT'S TIME to stop checking out of the hotel sector, says broker BT Alex Brown. BT's analysis said the sector's derating "has been savage". They think the fall in Ladbrooke, Millennium & Copthorne and the like is a buying chance, but admit the market is "in no mood to contemplate catching the falling knife that is the hotel sector" for some time.

ENGRAVERS are not usually a hub of corporate activity, but Palatine Engraving Company proved the exception. The Liverpool specialist in printing and printing card engraving was bought by the printing goods supplier, Fairfield Enterprise, for £2.6m. Fairfield rose 2p to 117.5p.

SAFESTORE, an AIM-listed operator of storage facilities, could be a bid target. The smart money is in Security Capital, a US group, which bought Acorn and Abacus, two of Safestore's rivals. Safestore shares closed flat at 65p.



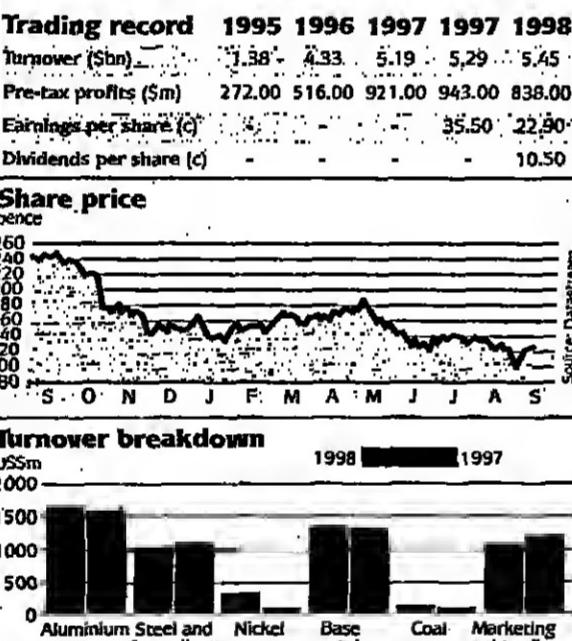
Billiton springs to life with a groundbreaker

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BILLITON: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2.68bn, share price 126.5p (+4p)



Bodycote can take the heat

IS THERE life after Joe Dwek?

The chairman of Bodycote yesterday announced his retirement after 26 years during which, through a string of acquisitions, he transformed the heat processing group from a small regional player into a truly international company.

The benefits of the strategy were on display yesterday as Bodycote unveiled half-year figures. In the six months to 30 June profits from ongoing businesses rose by 26 per cent to £23m, while last year's acquisition brought a similar increase. Add in a lower interest bill and profits before tax were up by 61 per cent to £28.1m.

HIT, the French business bought in January for £60m, increased its profits by 40 per cent. Thermal Processing, bought a month later, is already contributing to growth.

But the real secret is in Bodycote's 161 plants serving 17 countries and trading in 17 currencies, and in its six different divisions from heat treatment and brazing to materials testing and metallurgical coatings.

Only 24 per cent of profit is generated in the UK, which allows Mr Dwek to be relatively relaxed about a hard landing in the UK economy.

Capital expenditure is expected to grow by 50 per cent to £70m in the current year, of which almost half has already been spent. Almost all of the £90m raised by the rights issue in January has been committed, but the company is currently untargeted and says managing director John Cheshire, several more small acquisitions are likely in North America.

On full-year profit forecasts of £35m, the shares - up 10p to 250p yesterday - trade on a forward multiple of 14. After their strong run they are probably only a hold now.

IN BRIEF

Laing and Hyder form PFI venture

THE CONSTRUCTION company, John Laing, has teamed up with the utilities business Hyder to form a new company, Laing Hyder, to pursue opportunities under the Government's private finance initiative (PFI). Laing Hyder is developing bids for eight projects in its target sectors of education, health, courts, emergency services and government buildings. Sir Geoff is a keen sailor.

Photobition up

PHOTOBITION, the media services group, unveiled pre-tax profits of £9.8m for the 15 months to the end of June, up 27.5m to the year to end-March 1998.

The chief executive and chairman, Eddie Marchbanks, said current trading was in line with expectations and the group had seen no signs of a slowdown. The group, which last week bought US graphic design group Katz Digital Technologies for £22m, said recent falls in its share price, from a high of 335p in May, had pushed it towards the use of debt rather than new shares for acquisitions. The shares closed at 222p.

Bryant to £25m

PRE-TAX PROFITS at Bryant rose from £28.6m to £53.3m in the year to May, the building construction group said yesterday.

Operating profits at the homes division rose to £60.8m (£42.1m) as turnover rose 5 per cent to £503.7m, on the back of a 7.6 per cent rise in the average house selling price to £124,800. The other division, construction, reported an operating profit of £1.7m (£2m).

Frogmore's swap

FROGMORE ESTATES has bought 18 properties from Henderson Investors for £16.3m cash and exchanged contracts to sell two office buildings in Slough town centre to Henderson for £12.05m cash. The acquisition, a mixed portfolio of office and retail properties, generates rental income of about £1.52m.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Joe Dwek, who has retired as chairman of Bodycote, the metal processing group, after 26 years in office. Mr Dwek was heading this remarkably successful company just as Britain

Kingfisher chief swans to a Rolex

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



JIM MERCER

chief executive of British Vita, the Manchester-based plastics manufacturer whose two year old £66 million bid for rival plastics maker Doeplex finally came to fruition yesterday, said it was "only the second biggest bid in Manchester at the moment".

City observers know Sir Geoff well as a paper-clip chewer and as the man who once installed his own central heating.

It is not so well known that in the last two or three years he has begun to take sailing "very seriously indeed", according to a colleague.

Having steered one of his two very expensive yachts, "Noonmark VI" into contention last week, Sir Geoff's wins included a Rolex watch. Not that a man who regularly earns £1m a year will be desperate for a new timepiece.

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SPORT

How Murdoch has changed the face of British sport

Has Sky's wall-to-wall coverage set new standards in coverage... or is the broadcaster taking sport downhill? *Independent* writers analyse the evidence

FOOTBALL

IN THE six years since Rupert Murdoch and English football joined forces through the creation of the Premier League and the television deal struck with BSkyB, the game in this country has been transformed by its new-found wealth. Clubs can afford top foreign players and their astronomical wages, while the continental exodus of the best of British talent has all but dried up.

Overseas stars were by no means new to English football, but the signing of Dennis Bergkamp by Arsenal and Ruud Gullit by Chelsea led to importing on an unprecedented scale. Now it is rare for any Premier League club not to have foreign players, and in Chelsea's case it would be no surprise if they fielded a team without one English-qualified player at some stage this season. While the fans are revelling in it, the consequences for the national team are yet to be fully appreciated.

Foreign managers like Gullit, now at Newcastle, and Arsène Wenger of Arsenal are also becoming commonplace, bringing fresh ideas, dietary programmes and training methods that in many cases have already led to a new lease of life for players approaching their mid-thirties.

Although much of the money has gone on luring internationals like Fab-



PA

Satellite television crews gather outside Old Trafford yesterday to cover the developing story of BSkyB's move to take control of Manchester United

SKY'S SPORTING YEAR	
Football	2,900 hours
Golf	2,100
Cricket	1,300
Rugby Union	650
Rugby League	600
Tennis	400
Ice hockey	380
Boxing*	375
Basketball	250
Horse racing	2,000
Sky's three sports channels broadcast a total of 16,000 hours of sport in the 1997 calendar year. This list of the 10 leading sports shows the total number of hours of transmission in 1997.	
* Shared with Box Office	

rizio Ravanelli, reportedly paid £40,000 per week during his one-year stay at Middlesbrough, some has also filtered through to the stadiums which has improved the level of spectator enjoyment and justified, to some extent, the rising cost of attending Premiership football. Furthermore it could be argued that the promotion of the game in the media has never been better. Attendance figures are on the up, but not even Murdoch would claim all the credit.

However, there is a downside. Many fans are unhappy about the constant re-scheduling of games to suit the demands of live television, with matches on Monday and Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons and even Saturday mornings. In addition, the Sky money is widening divisions in the game.

"It's a very traditional game and

sometimes change doesn't come that easily," Brendan Batson, the deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said. "We can't turn the clock back but tradition is a very important part of our national game and the traditional thinking is that games are played on a Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. With the amount of investment from television companies you expect them to have a say in the way the game is run, but we have to make sure the balance doesn't get too one-sided in favour of the TV companies."

Sky has worked hard on presentation to satisfy the armchair supporter by including in its innovative coverage varied camera angles and intricate replay techniques that provide their audience with views that are not available to most in the stadium. The effervescent former Scotland international Andy Gray has become a cult figure through his operation of video replay machines that allow him, as the main studio analyst, to dissect the game and develop points in a way that was not possible before.

Thanks to Sky's financial input smaller clubs in the Nationwide League are undoubtedly better off than they were, but the gap between them and their Premiership counterparts is growing all the time. Even within the Premiership there are clear divisions; a look at which clubs have actually won the Premiership shows how important money is becoming. Variety, one of British football's greatest assets, is in obvious danger.

"It's a very traditional game and

RUGBY LEAGUE

NO SPORT has been crash-tackled by Rupert Murdoch quite like rugby league. In April 1985, against the background of News Corporation's attempts to hijack the game and its lucrative TV rights in Australia, the Rugby Football League in Britain accepted an offer of £27m from BSkyB for a new five-year television deal.

It was an unheard of sum of money for a sport accustomed to counting its pennies, even if it squandered its pounds, but this was no ordinary TV contract. It involved breaking the habits of 100 years by switching to a summer season – although advocates of that change insisted that it would happen anyway.

Since the deal was designed to isolate the Australian Rugby League, it specified that Great Britain could play only Super League opposition at international level. Most controversially of all, in its original form it involved existing clubs merging to form new entities to play alongside London, Paris and Toulouse in a European Super League.

Club chairman voted for that radical plan in order to get their hands on the £27m, but they could not deliver their side of the bargain. Mergers were howled down by opposition within the game, but London and Paris were included in the competition when it kicked off for its first summer season in 1996.

Producing a national – indeed a trans-national – competition was part of the deal with Sky. Again, the

game has been unable to deliver. Paris went to the wall after two years of mismanagement and French farce; London soldier on with considerable success on the field, but little impact off it; Gateshead will be the only new club, when they join Super League next season.

Overall, the legacy of Murdoch and his millions has been mixed. It is hard to imagine the game now without his monthly cheques, even if much of the money has gone in players' "loyalty" bonuses and inflated wages.

Some clubs, like the Bradford Bulls, have seized the opportunity and thrived under the new regime. Others are still adapting, whilst bitterness still lingers amongst some of the clubs excluded.

The game's international programme has been shot to pieces, without that breaking the ARL. They and Super League have reached an uneasy compromise, under which Test rugby will hopefully be restored to its old status.

Peace, of a sort, in Australia carried dangers, though, in a country which was merely a pawn in a bigger game. It was with relief that the sport here was able to announce a three-year extension to the Sky deal this summer, albeit at a lower fee per season.

The game has suffered through a shortage of terrestrial coverage, although that could be addressed by a highlights package on BBC next year.

Dave Hadfield

RUGBY UNION

THE EFFECT of the Dirty Digger's rugby revolution in the British Isles has been profound. BSkyB has not merely turned over the topsoil of the sport, but rearranged its foundations.

A little over three years ago Murdoch cemented a 10-year deal in Johannesburg with Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It was small beer compared with the \$1.5bn he shelled out for his NFL broadcasting rights, but it was more than enough to crack the union code wide open.

The catastrophic result was the collapse of "shameatism", but it was replaced by a merciless hand of market-force professionalism. England may be big and strong enough to play commercial hardball but Wales, Scotland and Ireland are on their knees and sinking fast.

Within a year of the Jo'burg accord, Murdoch had successfully tempted England's Rugby Football Union with an £27.5m carrot. It gave him exclusive rights to every Twickenham international. The message was clear: England, with their six million plus viewers, were the priority on the rugby shopping list, with the poor Celts down among the shampoo and loo paper.

The question with which the unions have been wrestling concerns their ability to "grow" a fledgling professional sport without the help of terrestrial television. They are beginning to realise that they cannot.

Chris Hewett

SKY SPORTS has demonstrated the ability to reach those parts of cricket around the world that other broadcasters either cannot – or cannot be bothered to – reach.

The sum of \$50m was paid to the then Test and County Cricket Board at the start of a four-year deal split approximately £25m–£25m between the BBC and Sky. BBC secured the live rights for the Tests, NatWest Trophy and some Sunday League cricket.

Sky gave viewers something which was never a part of the BBC remit: bringing summer to the northern hemisphere winter and screening more domestic competitions. Until the winter of 1996 England's overseas tours had been a visual mystery to the fans stuck in a cold climate. BSkyB changed all that and this year will be covering a third Ashes tour.

To date, Murdoch's men have put the County Championship on the schedule and broadcast women's cricket, with coverage of the Ashes series. There has also been extensive airtime given to the Benson and Hedges Cup, Sunday League cricket and a regular magazine programme, *The Pavilion End*.

Its innovative camera angles and other technical and technological refinements have all helped to make the game, one-day or first-class, more interesting to the watch. The net result is a raising of the game's profile and a solid financial footing for the base of the pyramid.

David Llewellyn

THE IMPACT of satellite television, and particularly of Sky Sports, on British boxing depends entirely on which side of the fence an interested party sits. Those involved with the promoter Frank Warren, who has an exclusive deal with Sky, are sitting pretty. Apart from the odd crumb, all the others are out in the cold.

Satellite TV, while filling some coffers in the short term, marginalises boxing and causes concern for the future of the sport. When Naseem Hamed, British boxing's biggest star, fought on ITV, he was watched by upwards of 10m viewers. His appearances on Sky pay-per-view have seen that drop below one million.

Sky's "poaching" of fighters who built their careers on ITV has played a large part in the terrestrial network's withdrawal from boxing over the last four years. And it is conspicuous that Sky have been unable to build fighters and make them into household names in the manner that ITV and BBC were able to do.

When Warren took his stable to Sky, he reasoned that only a dedicated sports channel had the time and resources to develop the stars of tomorrow. The biggest stars in British boxing over the last decade – Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn, Chris Eubank, Lennox Lewis and Hamed – all came to prominence on terrestrial TV. The void resulting from its withdrawal is one that boxing will live with for years to come.

Glyn Leach

ICE HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY in Britain has changed dramatically over the past three years and Rupert Murdoch's involvement is illustrative of how his long-term strategy influences where he chooses to invest.

Sky has a deal with the ice hockey Premier League before it became the Superleague two years ago and was in a good position to secure the rights again – for a sport growing in popularity – when they came up for renegotiation recently. Sky signed a two-year deal to screen the sport (worth around £1m per year) to the Superleague and an option for a third year.

The investment is tiny when compared with the £570m four-year deal Sky has with the football's Premier League, but potentially of immense value

should demand for British ice hockey increase internationally.

Sky has an ice hockey night on Thursday and it also broadcasts the Benson and Hedges Cup from the quarter-final stages onwards.

"Many people think of it as a small sport," a Superleague spokesman said, while pointing out that attendances of 17,000 and 10,000 in Manchester and Sheffield are larger than many First Division football crowds.

"As and when our product is in demand internationally [NHL hockey from the US and Canada currently dominate], the uni-ball League Trophy Final and the Budweiser play-off championships.

"Sky give us a high-quality outlet enabling us to prove that where we have regular coverage we can stand up against other sports," Smith said.

Nick Harris

BASKETBALL

MIKE SMITH, the Budweiser League chief executive, is adamant. "Sky's involvement with basketball has been nothing but beneficial," said Smith, who this week signs a new deal with the satellite channel which will be worth £1m to the sport over the next three years.

This is the second three-year agreement between the league and Sky, who will show 30 games this season in a two-hour Sunday evening slot, in addition to the DairyLea Dunkers all-star game, the uni-ball League Trophy Final and the Budweiser play-off championships.

"They have steered away from outside presenters and that has improved their credibility within the sport," Smith said. "By contrast the BBC's credibility in particular has declined with its often stilted and dated presentation."

Richard Taylor

TENNIS

THE INFLUENCE of Rupert Murdoch on British tennis is still in its infancy, but not through lack of desire. The Holy Grail of the sport here is Wimbledon, which is still a listed event and thus the BBC have the exclusive broadcasting rights.

The listed status is reviewed periodically, however, and it is understood Sky is lobbying for a change so it could bid for the rights to the whole tournament except for the men's final. "The men's final is, and will always remain, listed," an LTA spokesman said.

At the moment Sky's only exclusive tennis deal in Britain is to cover the Nottingham Open on Sky, an LTA sponsorship spokesman said. He declined to say how much the deal was worth and said he was not in a position to say whether a bid from Sky to screen Wimbledon would be well received by the LTA and the All England Club, which runs Wimbledon and negotiates the date of television rights. "It depends on whether we want [Wimbledon] retained on terrestrial TV or to explore other broadcasting opportunities," he said.

Nick Harris

HORSE RACING

IF THE *Evening Post* is not necessarily the most appropriate title for Sky's no-frills coverage of largely second-rate racing fixtures, calling it *Stuck in the Stalls* would be a disservice too.

For the racing fanatic who has not been sated by the extensive transmission of the sport by the BBC and, in particular, Channel 4, Sky fills in the gaps, principally by covering evening meetings and some Saturday meetings that are not on terrestrial TV.

The station has made a narrow inroad into coverage of the better meetings, taking over from Channel 4 at Newcastle and thus denying non-subscribers the chance to view one of the flat season's biggest handicaps, the Northumberland Plate, and a significant

Grand National trial, the Elder Chase.

The latter is sponsored by the Tot, who are in a prime position to assess Sky's effect on racing.

"Coverage by Sky has had a negative impact on betting compared with terrestrial TV because of their lower customer base," Rob Hartnett, the organisation's spokesman, said. "Betting turnover on the Northumberland Plate and the Elder Chase declined appreciably since the switch from Channel 4."

Sky has not had the opportunity or the need, to tamper with the sport and there have been no fixture changes to accommodate the station's schedules. Better still, Jeff Stelling's presentation of *The Evening Post* is high on action and low on talking heads, a refreshing alternative to the verbosity of terrestrial coverage.

John Cobb

Hele
Kolesar's
late strike
rescues
Panthers
RE HOCKEY

Helen in harmony afloat and at play



Helen Don-Duncan shows the powerful and relaxed style which has impressed Britain's swimming officials and launched what will be the first of many top-level outings for her country at Kuala Lumpur

Peter Jay

AS HELEN Don-Duncan was leaving to take part in a training session, she had one question. "Do you do know how to spell my name properly?" she asked, a victim of misplaced letters in the past. It is not a problem she is likely to suffer much longer.

A female who might win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, that open in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, is unlikely to be mis-spelled for long, but Don-Duncan is also 17, blonde, and attractive. The words "golden girl of British swimming" seem to be her destiny, even if they are not in common parlance currently.

Don-Duncan, from Garwood, near St Helens, is ranked joint first in the Commonwealth for the 200m backstroke, with Australia's Meredith Smith, and is rising through the world rankings at a speed akin to her rate through the water. Even if she fails in Malaysia, she ought to be knocking on the door of her prime at Sydney 2000.

"It's her determination that makes her stick out," Ivor Tatum, her coach, said. "She knows what she wants, and it's an Olympic gold medal. I probably shouldn't say this, but I think she'll get it."

Tatum has coached Don-Duncan, an A-level student at Winstanley College, almost from the moment she found she could move quicker through the water than her peers. "It was her attitude even then that made her stand out," he said. "It's the willingness to work that sets youngsters apart."

"She gives 100 per cent every time she gets in the water. That's not easy when it's 5am on a cold winter morning and you're a long way from competition. Only competing in the World Championships at Perth



The latest contender for golden girl (left) of swimming also plays the euphonium in her spare time. By Guy Hodgson

have a swimmer who motivates herself."

Don-Duncan, who comes across as having a laid-back attitude that makes David Gower look hyper-tense, has taken to ronron with aplomb. She says she likes the attention and does not get nervous before big competitions. Only competing in the

this January threw her, and then it was not because she was facing the planet's best.

"I was shocked by the size of the crowd more than anything," Don-Duncan, said after finishing well down at 11th. "Swimming is a big sport in Australia and there were thousands there. It made a big change from the few mums and dads

who watch us compete normally."

She has been viewed with more than passing interest by the Amateur Swimming Association, who incorporated her into the Swin2000 squad set up after the last Olympics to school our best youngsters both in and out of the pool. "She is," a spokesman said, "a very talented young girl."

That was apparent almost from the moment she took to the water. "I started at school and enjoyed it almost straight away," she said. "I still do. I train nine times a week but I can't say I find it a chore. Most of my friends are swimmers, including my boyfriend, so it's not a question of missing out on a

social life. We fit things in round our training."

"I was always competitive. Even when we used to swim breadths across the local pool, I always wanted to be first across."

Competitive by nature, she became competitive in the pool after winning a gold medal at the Junior European Championships two years ago. Her best time dropped by two seconds during that season and, from a place so deep in the world rankings she did not register 12 months ago, she is in the top 20 and rising now.

Where that upward momentum will take her is anybody's guess, though she has set herself the limited aim of

any medal at the Commonwealth Games. "I'd like to swim in three Olympics if I can," she said, "before I start thinking about retirement."

When you meet her that statement is about the only retiring thing about her, although she does have a subject about which she is shy. "I get skittish about," she said. "My dad is a conductor of the Pemberton Youth Band, so I've played since I was seven."

Her instrument, to the dismay of sub-editors who could have had a splendid time with others, is the euphonium. Still, she will not need to blow her own trumpet if she wins in Malaysia. Her name should be spelt right, too.

Young England squad face trial

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWELL

HOCKEY IS due to make its debut in the Commonwealth Games here tomorrow, with England's women starting their campaign against New Zealand. Scotland playing the firm favourites for the title. Australia, and Wales taking on South Africa.

It is a splendid opportunity for all three teams to feature in a major competition in which England and Scotland both should reach the semi-finals. And for England it is an opportunity to make amends for their terrible World Cup performance earlier this year, finishing ninth in Utrecht.

England also have Wales and South Africa, who finished above them in the World Cup, in the same pool, which is completed by Canada and Namibia, who have come in as late replacements for Sri Lanka.

Scotland have been drawn in the easier pool. Though world and Olympic champions Australia should walk away with it, the Scots' semi-final prospects hinge on beating India.

If England are to return home with a medal they need to top their group with wins against New Zealand and South Africa to avoid Australia in the semi-finals. They should be capable of beating both. Succeed and the youth policy of coach Maggie Soutyave will have paid great dividends. Fail, and her critics will have a field day.

The England strikers Mandy Nicholson and Tina Cullen are back from injury and will add their experience to the treble Olympians Karen Brown, who has been appointed captain, and Jane Sixsmith.

Scotland rely on the same squad as in Utrecht, while Wales will be captained by Lynda Watkin.

Kolesar's late strike rescues Panthers

ICE HOCKEY

NOTTINGHAM PANTHERS timed their good run at Manchester Storm's Nymex Arena by earning a 3-3 draw there on Sunday in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

The Panthers followed up their two victories and a draw last season with another point that came courtesy of a late equaliser from Mark Kolesar just over a minute from time.

Pekka Virta and Steve Roberts scored the Panthers' other goals, while Manchester's men on the mark were Jeff Tomlinson, Kelly Askew and Jonathan Weaver.

There was still no joy, meanwhile, for the new boys London Knights. Playing their first home game - at Milton Keynes - against Sheffield Steelers, the Knights went down 5-3 for their second defeat of the weekend.

Having taken the lead in under two minutes through Nick Poole, they pulled the score back to 2-2 through Greg Gauthier, after Derek Laxdal and David Longstaff had put the Steelers in front.

But Laxdal's second, and efforts from Ed Courtemay and Teeder Wynne put the Steelers in control, despite Jason Campeau pulling one back for Knights.

It was a dismal weekend on the road for last season's beaten cup finalists Cardiff Devils. Having lost away to the holders, Ay, on Saturday, they went down 4-3 to Newcastle Riverkings the following night. Blake Kinsler scored twice for the Riverkings, who were never behind, and goals were added by the former Devils player Hilton Ruggles and Glenn McMullen. For Cardiff, goals came from Mario Simion, Martin Lindman and Doug McEwen.

Woodward alerted to Watford man

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

IF CLIVE Woodward's summer pilgrimage to the great cathedrals of southern hemisphere rugby left him in serious need of spiritual salvation, help may be at hand. According to Saracens, the reigning knock-out champions, who launched their Allied Dunbar Premiership campaign in such impressive style on Sunday, Jeremy Thomson will prove nothing short of a Godsend to England's coach as he prepares for this autumn's testing international business.

The way the Londoners see it, Thomson, the most exciting

South African centre in Super 12 rugby as recently as two seasons ago, has every credential Woodward could wish for; not least a mother from Watford who makes good his English qualification. "He's an outstanding talent and I'll be amazed if he doesn't make it into Clive's squad in next to no time," pronounced Mark Evans, the Saracens director of rugby, yesterday.

Thomson put a debut Premiership try past Northampton at Vicarage Road and generally made light of Philippe Sella's retirement at the end of last season. Woodward was duly impressed - "I thought he played pretty well," he agreed - and, given England's glaring

shortage of midfield back-up during their catastrophic voyage across the equator, his arrival from Natal could hardly be more timely.

Woodward will name his first squad early next month and it is likely to be restricted to the cream of the crop. "Our first internationals are the World Cup qualifiers with Holland and Italy and we have to operate within tournament rules, so I'll be working with 26 players for both matches," said the coach. "But then we go into the heavy duty stuff against Australia and South Africa, so there is some flexibility. It's going to be fascinating to see who comes through in the early stages of the Premiership."

Meanwhile, the great and the good of the Six Nations committee met at Heathrow yesterday. They were not, apparently, organising a mass escape from those who accuse the game's discredited politicians of a near-fatal lack of leadership. Rather, they were engaged in the first serious top-level attempt to restructure the European game in the best interests of those who really matter: the players and the supporters.

Allan Hosie, the former international referee who represents Scotland on the International Rugby Board executive, called the get-together in the wake of last month's pitched battle over the forma-

tion of a British League. The committee plans to discuss its plans publicly tomorrow, although Vernon Pugh, the IRB chairman widely blamed for spiking the British League idea, will not be present. He was flying to Kuala Lumpur today for the Commonwealth Games sevens tournament.

If a cross-border competition does manage to stagger its feet in the near future, Hosie's colleagues in Scotland may attempt to sell off their two so-called super districts, Edinburgh Reivers and Glasgow Caledonians. "In a new set-up with 20 games a season against top quality opposition, they could become a very attractive proposition," said Dun-

Understudies shine

CRICKET

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

at Northampton

Derbyshire 199

Northamptonshire 203-5

Northamptonshire win by five wickets

ANY TALK of the demise of Second XI cricket is premature, as this one-day AON Trophy final demonstrated. The game is finally trying to bridge its class divide.

It is happening slowly, but there is a distinct shift of emphasis in the lower reaches of the county game whereby the Dinky Dogs (the rhyme with Twos), as the Second XI sides are known, are no longer the verdant pastures on which faithful old work-horses can step into semi-retirement, all the while keeping out some thursting youngster who has places to go, things to achieve, but nowhere to do.

Now the powers that be, the County boards, have diverted these cricketing backwaters into tributaries of the mainstream game. The im-

portance of Second XI cricket is being recognised as the game heads into the 21st century.

Steve Coverdale interrupted watching the AON Trophy final between Northamptonshire (where he is chief executive) and Derbyshire at Wantage Road to explain: "Second XI cricket is an integral part of the development programme. It represents the only stepping stone between the recreational game and first-class cricket."

On the evidence yesterday, there is every reason to believe Coverdale is right.

Northamptonshire, who have a successful youth policy, the focus of which will be their new indoor school, performed efficiently as they completed the first leg of a double. These sides meet again at Derby tomorrow in a three-day Second XI Championship match, which, if Northamptonshire win, will make them only the third county to have achieved the double, after Middlesex and Surrey.

The appearance of the former England all-rounder Phil DeFreitas in the Derbyshire line-up did not please the host

side. While Derbyshire were perfectly entitled to field him under regulations which stipulate no more than three capped players and no more than three players over the age of 25 (emphasising the push to younger Second XI squads), there were mutterings that it was not in the spirit of the competition.

His case was apparent, and as Derbyshire maintained, he was in the side to give the younger players the benefit of his experience, then it worked. DeFreitas treated them to an object lesson in batting, hammering 58 off 75 balls.

But, apart from Matthew Cassar's gritty 42 and a more cautious innings from Tim Tatters, no one on the Derbyshire side could manage to master the home side's attack. When Northamptonshire had their assault, Graeme Swann (49) and David Roberts (31) rallied along at five an over.

On Graeme's departure his younger brother Alec took up the cudgels and won the Swann-upping, as it were, with a fine unbeaten half century, to help steer Northamptonshire to victory with two overs to spare.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARD

AXA League

Lancashire v Hampshire

OLD TRAFFORD (One Day): Lancashire (4pts) beat Hampshire by 16 runs

Lancashire won toss

LANCASHIRE

Runs 6s 4s 2s 1s Wkts

J P Crawley c Utal b Macioczekas..... 70 0 1 46 52

M K Clinton b Hardie..... 20 0 1 46 52

G H Fairbrother c Ayres b Stephenson..... 10 0 2 46 66

G D Lloyd c Ayres b Stephenson..... 36 0 2 46 66

A Flintoff c Keich b Macioczekas..... 83 3 6 58 56

Wesley Alram c & b Macioczekas..... 8 0 1 10 15

J W Hegg c & b McLean..... 16 0 2 18 21

I W Austin not out..... 7 0 0 13 14

G Chapple c McLean..... 4 0 0 6 9

G Studding c & b McLean..... 1 0 0 3 2

J P Martin c McLean..... 2 0 0 2 1

Extras (60 w/ 7 nb)..... 21

Total (59.4 overs)..... 202

Falls (2 6s, 2 4s, 3 3s, 5 2s, 6 1s, 7 0s)..... 186

Man of the Match: J P Martin

Umpires: C Connor, P J Hartley

Referee: G A Connor, P J Hartley

Man of the Match: J P Martin

Umpires: C Connor, P J Hartley

Man of the Match: J P Martin

Umpires: C Connor, P J Hartley

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Man of

Sea waves bye-bye to Leger

BY IAN DAVIES

THE ST Leger, the oldest of the five Classics, received a massive blow to its credibility as a contemporary championship contest when the Godolphin operation announced last night that two of their entrants, the odds-on favourite Sea Wave, and Central Park will bypass the Doncaster race to instead contest the Prix Niel, a trial for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over a mile and a half at Longchamp on Sunday.

Over the now unfashionably lengthy distance of one mile six furlongs and 132 yards and coming less than a month before the infinitely more prestigious Arc, the St Leger has had a tough time of it in recent years.

Reference Point, in 1987, was the last Derby winner to run in the Leger. He won the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Blint St James
(Newcastle 3.50)
NB: Chinader
(Newcastle 3.20)

race easily enough, but subsequently flopped in the Arc, lending weight to the theory that the Leger is a graveyard for those who use it as an Arc trial, a doctrine which has gained in strength ever since the great Nijinsky went under to Sassandra in the 1970 Arc following his trip to Town Moor to complete the Triple Crown.

Even so, last night's news represents a new low point for the St Leger and fresh ammunition for those who want to shorten the distance of the race, open it up to older horses – as is the case with the Irish St Leger and the Prix Royal-Oak (the French St Leger) – or abolish it altogether.

Coral, Stanley and the Tote suspended betting on the Leger after yesterday's withdrawals, but William Hill and Ladbrokes issued new prices and make



Nedawi (No. 5), pictured dead-heating for the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood, is the new favourite for Saturday's St Leger Trevor Jones

Nedawi, Godolphin's remaining entry, their 2-1 favourite.

Ta-Lim, winner of the March Stakes at Goodwood recently, is a definite runner. Richard Hills, who takes the ride at Doncaster, partnered Sir Michael Stoute's charge in work at Newmarket on Saturday and the colt satisfied connections.

Angus Gold, racing manager to Ta-Lim's owner, Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, said: "He didn't do much because it had only been a week since he won at Goodwood but what he did was fine. At the moment he is on course for the Leger. It's a big step up but he is an improving horse and nobody

knows how good he is. The ground won't bother him. I understand rain is forecast and if the going was on the easy side, I don't think he'd mind that."

Ardleigh Charmer, the outsider, also runs. Chris Dryer, his trainer, said: "He's ready to run and Gary Hind will be offered the ride. The owners tried him and have paid for him to get this far so they decided to have a go and have a day out."

The filly Star Begonia from Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle yard is a probable runner but Peter Chapple-Hyam's Dark Moon-dancer is unlikely to last long, neither is their 10-1 Star Begonia or 9-1 High And Low, while William Hill are likely to have plenty of takers for their offers of 7-2 The Glow-Worm and 9-1 Sunshine Street.

how he goes in the morning before we decide. If they get some rain it would help – he loves the cut and the 14 furlongs would suit him down to the ground. If he does run, I'm stuck for a jockey because John Reid is going to Ireland to ride Swain."

When the layers revise their prices in a hurry, punters can take advantage. Although he is not a definite starter, Ladbrokes' offer of 20-1 Dark Moon-dancer is unlikely to last long, neither is their 10-1 Star Begonia or 9-1 High And Low, while William Hill are likely to have plenty of takers for their offers of 7-2 The Glow-Worm and 9-1 Sunshine Street.

Star Begonia: "He's ready to run and Gary Hind will be offered the ride. The owners tried him and have paid for him to get this far so they decided to have a go and have a day out."

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LINGFIELD

HYPERION

2.00 HAROLDON 4.00 Pepplett
2.30 ALABIA (nb) 4.30 Wishful
3.00 MAGIC LIGHT 5.00 Dorald
3.30 BAHAMIAN BANDIT 5.30 Agent Le Blanc

GONG: Turf – Good – AW – Standard.
STALLS: Turf – Straight – stands round; course – outside AW – Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5 to 71 (40x).
Left-Hand: stand unshaded courses.
Course: SE of town on B2223. Lingfield station (served by London, Kentish) before Colchester, 10 miles E. From Epsom, 10 miles SW. Gidea Park Club 2½, next free. **LEADING TRAINERS:** J. Moore 45-87 (27%), M. Johnson 53-256 (20%), R. Harris 50-579 (23%). **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A Clark 7-612 (26%), R. Cochrane 63-384 (17%), Martin Dwyer 25-245 (16%). **PERFECTS:** R. Perfects 22-232 (31%). **PERFECTED:** Paul Eddy 17-155 (7%). **FAVOURITES:** 76-12-287 (38%). **BLINKED FIRST TIME:** Enchanted Isle (Meredith, 300). On The Black (Visored, 300). Sweet Compliance (300). Sembastina (430).

2.00 EDENFIELD SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1st 21 (AW) Penalty Value £2,400

1 14/03 JAVA SHINE (GB) (P) (Tough, Ashton Keynes) P Eccles 7 10 ...N Pollard 5 8 ...D O'Donnell 5 8 ...Paul Eddy 7 10 ...
2 03/04 BAPS福德 (GB) (C) (Dursal Park Limited) M Waring 4 10 ...A McGraw 2 3 ...
3 4/0-6/2 SUPERIOR FORCE (GB) (C) (Copyrite Ltd) M Sanders 5 9 ...A Clark 7 10 ...
4 04/05 ENTHUSIASM (GB) (T) (Makrini) A James 9 12 ...R Cochrane 11 ...
5 05/06 BURLESQUE (GB) (P) (Linton) M Pollard 5 10 ...A Clark 7 10 ...
6 05/06 SOAKING (7) (C) (Image Offices Supplies Ltd) P Dwyers 5 13 ...
7 05/06 JACK GOLDWYN (GB) (P) (Mrs Victoria Goodman) J S Morris 6 12 ...P M Pugh 9 9 ...
8 05/06 HILL STORM (GB) (D) (Kathy) K McKeown 6 12 ...J James 13 ...
9 05/06 CHEF ASIA (GB) (B) (Buddy) R Hanson 8 11 ...R Jingles 3 ...
10 05/06 PROFI PICTURES (GB) (P) (Gill & G) (Parham) G Smith-Douglas 8 9 ...J Perfect 1 ...
11 05/06 KURSING (GB) (C) (T) Racing Ltd 8 7 ...M Fenton 7 ...
12 05/06 DAIRY DEEGER (GB) (T) T Thomas 8 7 ...
13 05/06 ERIN'S CHILL WIND (GB) (Advance Reprographic Prints) S Dow 6 5 ...
14 05/06 TALKING TO THE WALL (GB) (P) (Makrini) A Clark 7 10 ...
15 05/06 SUNSHINE COMPASSION (GB) (Mike) P Sherriff 8 8 ...N Pollard 5 10 ...
16 05/06 MAGIC LIGHT (GB) (Hedge) K McKeown 8 10 ...C O'Meara 7 7 ...
17 05/06 ENCHANTED ISLE (GB) (D) (John D) Dwyers 6 12 ...A Clark 7 10 ...
18 - deleted -

BETTING: 5-1 Jack Goldwyn, 6-1 Clark, 7-10 Chef Asia, 7-11 Kursing, 10-1 Perfect, 11-1 Fenton, 12-1 Kursing, 13-1 Dwyers, 14-1 O'Meara, 15-1 Dwyers, 16-1 Dwyers, 17-10 Dwyers, 18-10 Dwyers, 19-10 Dwyers, 20-10 Dwyers, 21-10 Dwyers, 22-10 Dwyers, 23-10 Dwyers, 24-10 Dwyers, 25-10 Dwyers, 26-10 Dwyers, 27-10 Dwyers, 28-10 Dwyers, 29-10 Dwyers, 30-10 Dwyers, 31-10 Dwyers, 32-10 Dwyers, 33-10 Dwyers, 34-10 Dwyers, 35-10 Dwyers, 36-10 Dwyers, 37-10 Dwyers, 38-10 Dwyers, 39-10 Dwyers, 40-10 Dwyers, 41-10 Dwyers, 42-10 Dwyers, 43-10 Dwyers, 44-10 Dwyers, 45-10 Dwyers, 46-10 Dwyers, 47-10 Dwyers, 48-10 Dwyers, 49-10 Dwyers, 50-10 Dwyers, 51-10 Dwyers, 52-10 Dwyers, 53-10 Dwyers, 54-10 Dwyers, 55-10 Dwyers, 56-10 Dwyers, 57-10 Dwyers, 58-10 Dwyers, 59-10 Dwyers, 60-10 Dwyers, 61-10 Dwyers, 62-10 Dwyers, 63-10 Dwyers, 64-10 Dwyers, 65-10 Dwyers, 66-10 Dwyers, 67-10 Dwyers, 68-10 Dwyers, 69-10 Dwyers, 70-10 Dwyers, 71-10 Dwyers, 72-10 Dwyers, 73-10 Dwyers, 74-10 Dwyers, 75-10 Dwyers, 76-10 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England revelations: Shearer's claims dismissed in an impressive performance by a player not afraid to speak his mind

Adams refuses to buckle in defence

BY CLIVE WHITE

THERE WAS no backtracking, no regrets from Tony Adams yesterday about either his book or the timing of it. The idea, put forward by the England captain, Alan Shearer, that the furore surrounding his book and that of the national coach, Glenn Hoddle, had contributed to England's downfall in Stockholm was summarily dismissed by the Arsenal man - though he made a point of differentiating between the two tomes.

Introduced to the media at yesterday's launch at Highbury of *Addicted* (Collins Willow, £16.99) as the former England captain, Arsenal Double winning captain and best-selling author, "Tony Adams", he made it clear he would not be attempting to defend Hoddle's literary effort. "I've not read his book," he said, "but I've put a lot of time and effort into this book - 18 months - and am very proud of it. I can't answer whether his book is better than mine but I'm doing it from the right place and for the right motives and being honest."

The inference was clear; his was a serious piece of work, with honourable intentions, as opposed to that of Hoddle, whose book is already high in the best-sellers' list.

After what the reformed alcoholic has been through, the idea that mere words could play a part in how a professional footballer - indeed an international footballer - performed was beyond... words. After a long pause in answer to the question raised about Shearer's observation, he said: "All I can say is that no article has affected the way I play. I go out there to do my best, to try to play football. Obviously sometimes I don't play well, but I can honestly say no book or article could affect the way I do my job. Besides, there's always something going on in the media during England build-ups."

When pressed further and asked

whether his England team-mates had spoken to him about the book Adams responded sharply. "They were fine - we had other things to talk about, like I said to them. Stefan Schwarz is playing and he's a very good player and he careful, he's got a great left foot and he can control a game if you give him time. Now that's got more of a bearing on whether you win or lose a game."

Any suggestion that he no longer cared enough about England was also given short shrift. "I was very sad about the Stockholm result - and that's a positive thing for me," he said. Clearly harping back to the days when alcoholism left him oblivious to what was going on around him. He still believes he has a year or two to offer at international level, the old ankles and knees notwithstanding.

Adams cut a relaxed, confident figure in his polo shirt and dishevelled hair and he was ready to field any question put to him in a much more articulate fashion than many give professional footballers credit for. He made it clear that he would not be benefiting financially from the book and that the advance he had received would be shared between his parents (who had had to put up with what he called "secondary fame" all these years) and an alcoholics' clinic.

"I don't need the money," he said. "I just needed to get rid of all the rubbish, get rid of all the wreckage of the past and spread the message that there are traps out there but that there is a way out. I don't want to be on a crusade, I'm not trying to cure the world."

Adams said he regularly warned the apprentices at Arsenal about the dangers of drug and alcoholism, although he felt that many of the young people coming into the sport had a much more dedicated outlook than when he started. In those days he said: "Football and drink went hand in hand." He hinted that he might do

more work with the young when his playing days were over.

He described himself as "a control freak" which made it all the more difficult for him to accept his drink problem and for him to reach out for help until he became "sick and tired of being sick and tired. I'd had enough. I'd thrown the towel in which was unusual because it went against every-

thing I'd learned, 'you don't throw the towel in, you're a wimp, Tony'."

He was proud of his willpower but in this situation it was of no use to him. As his friend and colleague Paul Merson said to him once: "Have you ever tried stopping diarrhoea?"

Adams defended any criticism he made of the England coach in his book and insisted their relationship

had not been damaged. "It was never my intention to hurt Glenn and I think in the book I've given a balanced opinion of the man. I've got total respect for him. He has great faith and he's true to himself. It was positive, constructive criticism. I've listened to him and learned, and I'm sure he has done the same with me. It was unfortunate that I didn't have control of it."

When the serialisation in the Sun

came out, I couldn't have written this before - two years ago I was still drinking - and I had to wait until the World Cup was over to finish off the last chapter. It had to go out sometime and it got to the biggest readership - I had good motives. I knew it would be reviewed negatively but not as negatively as it has been."

When the time comes to retire

Adams will take a year off from the

game and study his options - he was

impressed with the way that his Arse-

nal team-mate David Platt had

sorted out his future. "I'm spending

a Christmas at home, my family de-

serve that after all these years and

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SPORT

THE MURDOCH INFLUENCE P18 • AUTHOR ADAMS HAS NO REGRETS P22

Ince fights for his reputation

FOOTBALL

By NICK HARRIS

PAUL INCE yesterday denied he had abused the crowd following his sending off during England's 2-1 defeat in Sweden on Saturday, and made an impassioned plea that he be given no more than a one-match ban for his sins.

Roy Evans, the co-manager at Liverpool - where Ince is the captain - added his weight to the debate, claiming his player had been victimised during the European Championship qualifier because of his abrasive reputation.

Ince was seen on television apparently swearing and making a V-sign as he left the pitch after his red card for two bookable offences. He said yesterday he felt the matter had been blown out of all proportion.

"People [in the media] have been trying to make something out of it all," he said. "It would be easy to forget that they are English, they are trying to wind things up."

"All the other stuff is a load of rubbish. I wasn't doing anything to the crowd and I don't care a monkeys what it looked like on TV. I know what I did and didn't do."

Ince also said he should only receive a one-match ban for the two

yellow card offences, and not a lengthier penalty. "Two yellow cards is a one-match ban," he said. "I'm gutted to be missing one international, any attempt to make it any more would be very unfair."

The player then pleaded further mitigating circumstances, and said he had been attempting to play the ball when he picked up his second yellow card, for bringing down Celtic's Henrik Larsson.

"I went for the ball, it's as simple as that. That is what my game is all about," Ince said. "He was very quick and got away from me a bit. But I was committed to the challenge and was just unlucky the way it happened."

It was not a malicious tackle at all."

Ince was supported by Roy Evans, who said his player's reputation had had more to do with his bookings than his actions. Evans said: "Why should people pillory Paul Ince? He's a very competitive player and he's on the field to win games. Neither of the tackles for which he was booked was vindictive nor designed to cause injury. Maybe they were slightly mistimed and maybe Paul's reputation preceded him."

"Paul has such a passion and desire to win, he was also very angry at seeing his team lose when he was on the field in Sweden. You can say he should control that, but when you are

out in the middle of the pitch it is not easy to do."

"I don't see him as an assassin. He goes for the ball and more often than not he gets it. I'm not condoning him getting sent off, but if you take that passion away from his game you don't have the Paul Ince everyone wants to see."

"People forget the form he showed in the World Cup and also the qualifying game in Italy. It's sad that in trying to compete, people have a go at him."

Uefa will decide on the length of Ince's ban at its next disciplinary committee meeting, later this month, and will almost certainly ban him from

England's next game, against Bulgaria at Wembley in October. Whether he will be penalised further will depend on whether Saturday's Italian referee, Pierluigi Collins, reports that Ince abused the crowd or not.

Meanwhile yesterday, the Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, confirmed his interest in signing Mid

dissatisfied Paul Merson. A meeting scheduled for yesterday between Merson and Bryan Robson, the Boro manager - for the player to seek a release from the club - did not happen, but Gregory said: "I can confirm that I have spoken to Bryan Robson about the Paul Merson situation."

Tottenham could face a fine com

pensation bill if they try to lure George Graham from Leeds to replace Christian Gross. It is thought that a clause inserted into the new contract Graham signed with the Elland Road club last December would require Tottenham to pay him just to speak to him. "George signed a new contract last year which runs until 2001. Anyone who asks permission to speak to him will be told 'no,'" Leeds' chairman, Peter Ridsdale, said.

Andy Goram, the former Rangers and Scotland goalkeeper, has signed for Sheffield United. Blackburn Rovers have made a £2m offer for Rangers' unsettled Italian mid-fielder, Gennaro Gattuso.

Andy Goram, the former Rangers and Scotland goalkeeper, has signed for Sheffield United. Blackburn Rovers have made a £2m offer for Rangers' unsettled Italian mid-fielder, Gennaro Gattuso.



Nixon McLean, the Hampshire fast bowler, beats Peter Martin's bat to wrap up the Lancashire innings but the home side still sealed the AXA trophy at Old Trafford yesterday Ben Duffy

United to add 12,000 seats at Old Trafford

By GUY HODGSON

AMID THE controversy surrounding BSkyB's attempt to buy Manchester United, the club announced yesterday they are to expand Old Trafford's capacity, taking it from the current 55,300 to 67,400.

The scheme, which will cost £30m and will go ahead even if BSkyB's bid fails, will be completed by 2001 and make Old Trafford the biggest club ground in Britain. Celtic Park in Glasgow is currently the largest with 60,000 seats.

Plans have been submitted to Trafford Council and if permission is given work will begin on adding tiers to the current Stretford End and Scoreboard End stands next summer. This follows the opening of the new triple-tiered North Stand, which cost £27m, in 1995-96.

The plan will alleviate United's chronic problem of supply and demand. There are 120,000 members fighting over 12,000 tickets for every home game after 40,000 season ticket holders and 3,000 visiting supporters have been accommodated. In FA Cup ties, where opposition fans get a greater share, the problem is exacerbated.

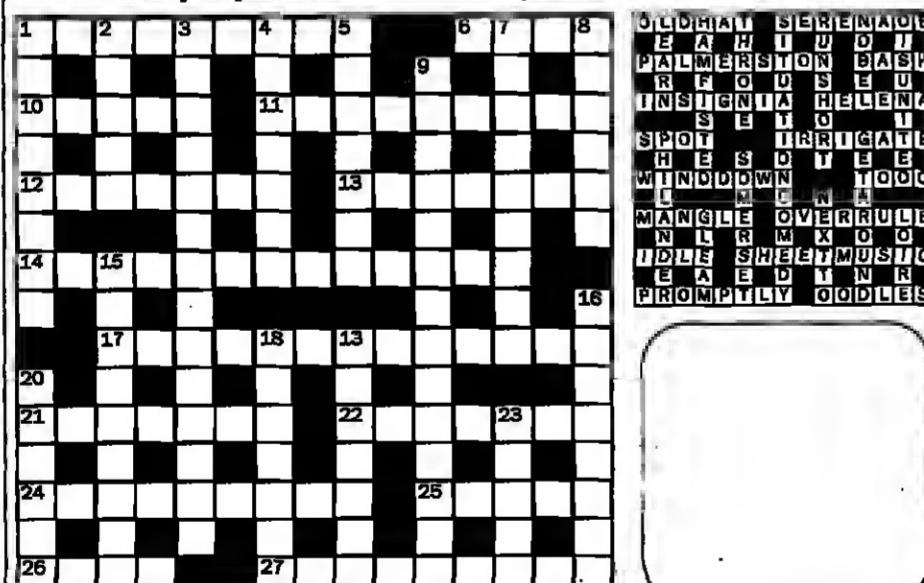
The proposed scheme was greeted guardedly by fans. "I'd welcome the increased capacity if the club said a portion of it would be made available for open sale," Lee Hodges of the Independent Supporters' Association, said. "The true local fans would get a chance to watch matches."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3710. Tuesday 8 September

By Acelred

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Exerting pressure to hold back in applying sanctions (9)
 - A live daughter but not yet active (4)
 - Rosie makes up a basket from this? (5)
 - Tensely perhaps but in a way that cannot be bettered (9)
 - Calculations are rejected by old scholar (7)
 - Put foot heavily on the French foot control (7)
 - Oboe refinement could make one late (3, 6, 4)
 - BP not British, dispensing with it? (13)
 - Cliff provides home for one bride as ordered (7)
 - Material for making ice-cream with reduced energy content (7)
 - Male upset Camilla with name of old PM (9)
 - Graduate thus is at the lowest level (5)
 - Show short tape (4)
 - Shout so returning to manage freezing point finder (9)
 - They're called programmes! (5-3)
 - Nigerian purchaser would turn over unorthodox type (5)
 - Trusteeship aim to clear up complaint (5, 9)
 - One with little time works round over thick paint (7)
 - Method of killing decay in entrance (7)
 - However one has to eat to take in energy from this hydrocarbon (9)
 - Something used for the rest of one's waking hours (3, 3)
 - Scripture bias limiting European must be put right, other things being equal (7, 7)
 - Took sound steps to provide entertainment (3-6)
 - Bunch could be facile about science (8)
 - Note what cycle has? (6, 1)
 - Martial goes after male East Ender (7)
 - Like one to produce action mostly, being a writer (6)
 - Male is party to sin (5)



Lancashire pick up AXA title

By JON CULLEY
at Old Trafford

Lancashire 202
Hampshire 186-7
Lancashire won by 16 runs

LANCASHIRE COLLECTED their second trophy in little more than 24 hours when a 16-run victory over Hampshire clinched the AXA League title before an enthusiastic home crowd at Old Trafford.

Basking in the glow of Sunday's triumph over Derbyshire in the NatWest Trophy final, Lancashire recovered from a slow start to total 202 in 40 overs, thanks mainly to 69 of 58 balls by the 20-year-old Andrew Flintoff.

Robin Smith threatened to spoil the party as he hit 44 of 66 balls but, once he had been dismissed in the 34th over, Hampshire's challenge fell away.

A recurrence of Michael Atherton's back trouble forced Lancashire to make one change to their successful Lord's line-up, introducing 21-year-old Mark Chilton in place of the former England captain.

But it was to the more established youngster Flintoff that Lancashire were indebted for injecting their innings with substance after Wasim Akram had won the toss.

In a sluggish start, Lancashire were reduced to 50 for 3 in 15 overs. John Crawley, whose unbeaten 53 helped ease the way to victory at Lord's, fell for seven yesterday, skewing a drive to Shaun Udal at point of

Dimitri Mascarenhas, then Chilton's stumps were shattered by Peter Hartley before Neil Fairbrother steered a catch to the wicketkeeper Adrián Aymés of John Stephen's first delivery.

However, Flintoff happened upon just the right moment to recover his form after enduring something of a drought, having scored only 110 runs in 18 innings in all cricket since making 70 against Warwickshire in the Championship on 29 June.

Yesterday, he struck 69 off only 58 balls in a characteristic exhibition of powerful hitting that included three sixes and four other boundaries before becoming a second victim for Mascarenhas.

Flintoff's partnership with Graham Lloyd added 110 in 16 overs but when Lloyd was stumped on the legside by Aymés a collapse followed, the last six wickets falling for 36 runs in seven overs with the West Indian Nixon McLean wrapping up the tail.

Hampshire still had something to play for; needing to consolidate their position in the top half of the table to ensure they start next season's new National League in the top division.

At 75 for 2 after 20 overs they were falling behind the clock after Stephenson had driven Ian Austin to mid-off and Giles White, dropped behind the stumps on 13, departed in similar fashion off Wasim Akram.

A partnership of 96 between their captain Robin Smith and Will Kendall took them to 149

before the former England batsman gave a thin edge to the wicketkeeper Warren Hegg in the 34th over. Smith, who survived a very hard chance to Crawley at extra cover on 35, fell for 44 with Hampshire still needing 54.

That sparked a middle-order collapse that proved decisive in tipping the scales in Lancashire's favour as Kendall sliced Peter Martin to Ian Austin at third man before Mascarenhas saw his stumps flattened by the same bowler.

With 31 still needed, Martin claimed his third success when Chapple took a superb catch on the long-on boundary to remove McLean, and Hampshire's chance finally expired when Wasim bowled Matthew Keech.

Meanwhile, Lancashire's committee were meeting last night to decide on their overseas player and captain for next season.

They were expected to announce Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lankan off-spinner, as replacement for Wasim Akram, ending the Pakistani all-rounder's 10-year association with the county.

The departure of Wasim, on whose advice, ironically, Lancashire went in pursuit of Muralitharan, will be greeted with mixed feelings by county members, who have seen him play a significant role in Lancashire's treble bid. John Crawley is favourite to take over as captain.

More cricket, scoreboard, page 19

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July 10 1998

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

BY JOHN WALSH

Where will you have lunch today? Seated at your desk with a carry-out bag of Prêt à Manger sandwiches (you poor, sad workaholic) or flooring a steak frites in your local Café Rouge or Browns or Chez Gerard? And where will you dine this evening? At your kitchen table with an ageing pork chop from the fridge and some McCain's chips, or at one of Sir Terence Conran's still-trendy Gastrodome palaces beside Tower Bridge? And will your breakfast tomorrow be a boiled egg and soldiers *chez tous*; or a hearty platter of Toulouse sausages and hash browns at one of the flash new eateries that's about to spring up round the corner from your fashionable duplex?

It's apparently likely these days, that your answers will all be "the latter". But if you're so weirdly old-fashioned that you still like eating in, still perversely prefer the home-made and the personal-amateur approach to the preparation and consumption of food, don't panic: you won't behave like this for much longer. According to a hundred infallible social-trend signifiers, the British attitude to eating in restaurants has undergone a complete makeover. From now on, we're all going to be spending a lot more time in the company of the à la carte, the amusing House White, the cheese board and the waiter called Rutter who, blithely risking a satirical and/or abusive response, boldly asks: "Would you care to hear today's specials?"

Restaurants are hip as never before – not through sightings of opinion-forming celebrities languidly dismembering crab claws in Shaftesbury Avenue, but because of some frankly incredible financial coups. For a month or so, City pages have been full of whisperings, rumours, confirmations and stunned analyses of a series of mergers, floats and takeovers. One day, Mogens Tholstrup, sells his flash, post-yuppie troughs – Daphne's and Pasha and The Collection – to the Belgo chain for £5.5m in cash and £5.5m in shares. Barely the ink dry on the Belgo chequesheet ship when its boss, John Johnson, was snatched out as co-founder of Pizza Express, buys The Ivy and Le Caprice from Charles Corbin and Jeremy King, their co-owners (and permasing "greetings") for £13.4m. The Pharmacy restaurant, started in Notting Hill earlier this year by the fashionable troika of Damien Hirst, Matthew Freud and Liam Carson, is not only being floated on the Stock Exchange via a "shell company" (its worth assessed at anything between £7 and £10m), but its owners are hoping to open similar, medication-filled, pill-themed-and-strangely-no-Pills premises in Germany, France, and America. Terence Conran is about to open his newest London chow-plaza, the Cog d'Argent, this month, and another in Paris in October, edging the value of his gustatory empire over the £100m mark. Marco Pierre White is threatening to take his restaurants public to the tune of £30m. And as for Nico Ladenis and Gary Rhodes... For many top chefs, acquiring the three letters plc seems temporarily to outweigh the attraction of acquiring a third Michelin star.

But how, I can hear you asking, how in God's name can these figures be justified? What instantly optimistic projections could possibly conclude that The Pharmacy, for all the excellence of its cuisine and the comeliness of its waiters in their bow-tied theatre gowns, is worth 10 million quid – or, more to the point, will still be worth anything like that in two years' time? Restaurants – the accepted wisdom goes – are more subject to the whims of fashion and the caprices of popular taste than any other industry, even the clothing trade. Why should clued-up City investors be throwing money at high-concept eating houses



Feeding frenzy

Britain is bursting to the seams with fancy restaurants, but still we're hungry for more. And the culinary fat cats behind every new opening are getting fatter and fatter

whose popularity could at any moment disappear like the waiting-list at Aubergine after Gordon Ramsay's departure, or the froth on your cappuccino? How can Terence Conran keep installing new restaurants in the metropolis at the rate of 23 a month? Won't the first signs of recession or decelerated economy drive people out of restaurants and back to the cheap comfort zone of microwaved and Delia Smith recipes?

The answer lies in the demographics. We are, it seems, in the middle of a spectacular sea-change in the way the British eat. The trend is most prevalent in London, admittedly, but the rest of the nation is catching up fast. The restaurant trade is currently in the throes of a colossal bull market. Currently worth £21 billion, it is set to increase by 24 per cent over the next four years. It's fantastic. Not so much a bull market as a three-course Rib of Beef With Shalots and Polenta Finished With a Madeira Sause market. And for every pooh-poohing City sceptic who says the eating-out boom won't sustain, there's a specialist in restaurant trend analysis who thinks we're only at the hors d'oeuvre stage.

At Foodservice Intelligence, one such trend-spotting agency, Peter Backman recently told a Sunday paper about the con-

cept of the "food dollar" and the "food pound" – i.e. the amount we each spend on food, and in what form we acquire it. "Twenty-five years ago in the United States," he said, "29 cents of the food dollar was spent on eating out, and now that figure is 50 cents. In Britain, it is only 29p in the pound and that is growing by up to a penny a year. We are about 25 years behind, and there is a lot of growth to come."

You could, however, have guessed otherwise from looking about you. London in late summer, in the last blissful thrives of the alfresco lunch, is simply crammed with restaurants crammed with people who might not long ago have been doing something else. Once, young wage slaves went to the pub after work. Then the wine bar trade started up, as male *amour propre* demanded classic drinks and female drinkers demanded less smoky, macho atmospheres. Now, every new restaurant seems to have its own bar area. Conran's Pont de la Tour and Bibendum both have an "Oyster Bar" where you can drink champagne or Czech beers for £5. Friday night drinkers in the streets around the BBC, instead of plunging into the fetid gloom of the local pubs, now decamp en masse to Great Portland Street and the

downstairs bars at Mash, the newest restaurant opened by Oliver Peyton, who made his name with the Atlantic, whose focal point is its bar and its wickedly differential, and light classics or cool vibraphones tickled on the speakers. Once, dining out was a rare and expensive treat, mostly confined to birthdays, anniversaries and/or protestations of love. There were three courses and wine rituals and strict protocols of behaviour (can you believe there was a time when lady guests were expected to order what they wanted by shyly informing their gentleman friend, rather than telling the waiter?) Now, eating in restaurants is what you do between drinking, talking and greeting other people as they arrive to join your party.

Some think it's all to do with women – or, at least, women who do not share men's capacity to absorb large quantities of drink without eating. Rather than listen to their girlfriends say one more time, "Darling, I have got to eat something or I'll die" at seven in the evening, men will try the radical solution of going to a restaurant after work, staying there, and letting the starving cossack pick away at a Caesar Salad if she feels like it. Conversely, those wanting to circumvent what remains of the

continued on page 8

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Murdoch's bid

Sir: My nine-year-old son loves Manchester United Football Club with a passion which is heart-wrenching, even though he has only ever seen them on television. His bedroom is a shrine to Man U, full of merchandise we have bought him - despite misgivings at their callous commercialisation - because of his affection for the lads who play in the "Theatre of Dreams".

However, if the club is taken over by Rupert Murdoch, not only shall I be asking for a refund of our membership fees, but I shall do all in my power to redirect his loyalties to a more worthy target. It should be easy, as he will no longer have the opportunity to see his team play.

It was bad enough to see the club becoming the "Theatre of Dosh". A "Theatre of Media Domination" is something I will have no part of.

DAVID A SKINNER
Tervuren,
Belgium

Sir: I am a Manchester United shareholder and lifelong supporter. There is one way that Rupert Murdoch can get his hands on my share certificate - to pry it from my cold, dead hands.

PATRICK RICHARDS
London W6

Futile 'drugs war'

Sir: Having lost two young patients in the past month from the injecting of a particularly pure form of heroin that appears to be currently available on the streets of London, leaving behind an orphaned eight-year-old and fatherless seven-year-old, I feel extremely angry.

David Macauley's article explaining why he quit as the director of Scotland Against Drugs (Comment, 4 September) said nothing new ("education has to be at the forefront, availability must be reduced, must shift the culture etc) and quitting is not going to help.

We must get away from the "war on drugs" and get into the field of "peaceful negotiation", as in Northern Ireland. Education has failed our children, who are dying. Reducing availability has failed. Changing the culture is a long-term goal, which might ultimately succeed.

We must listen to our youngsters who want desperately to get out of the grip of heroin and other drugs but cannot, largely because of the illegality of their action.

We must consider providing locally based, user-friendly, legal, controlled, specialist outlets for these drugs so that young people can get and administer their drugs in clinical and social safety. And then we must provide the rehabilitation facilities in which they can be guided back into society and in which they can be trained in the skills which will enable them to make a positive contribution. This approach will immediately reduce the crime rate, it will put the current providers out of business and it will reduce the appalling mortality rates from drug use. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, let's talk about it.

DR NICK MAURICE
General Practitioner
Marlborough,
Wiltshire

Sir: It is a good thing that David Macauley has resigned as director of Scotland Against Drugs. He criticises the Government for being ineffective in tackling the drugs problem, but the only positive suggestion he makes is that "the availability of drugs on our streets must be drastically reduced". He says, "Enforcement is key."

What on earth does this mean? Enforcement has never worked. It does not work now and it never will. It is the only thing we have ever tried and the demand for drugs has continued to escalate.

Mr Macauley is right to criticise the Government: they cannot

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Continuing our series on the Portuguese fishery, the first rays of dawn find the fishermen already at sea

Rui Xavier

succeed if most of their effort is concentrated on enforcement and so little is spent on helping those whose misuse of drugs causes problems to themselves and society. Mr Macauley seems to be proposing that we waste further resources in doing even more of the wrong things.

The only solution is to try to bring drugs under reasonable legal control. When the criminals cease to have a monopoly over the supply and distribution of drugs, drug-related crime and deaths will diminish. Then, harmful use can be openly discouraged and those who have a problem will come forward and be helped without fear of repression.

MICK HUMPHREYS
Creech St Michael,
Somerset

Sir: David Macauley states that the global drug business represents 8 per cent of world trade ("the same as the oil business"), that it is responsible for 70 per cent of thefts in the UK and, that it costs the NHS a huge amount. He says the profits of the criminal drug business are so great that serious bank robbery is in terminal decline, and yet he is against the decriminalisation of drugs.

Why do the UK and US governments continue to ignore the lessons of US alcohol prohibition between the wars?

GEORGE HORNEY
Bournemouth,
Dorset

Sir: Quentin King is fortunate if the cyclists of Brighton "show polite respect for pedestrians" (letter, 3 September). I have always walked whenever possible in central London, in suburbs and in the country, and am sorry to say that, in my experience, polite cyclists are

increasingly the exception rather than the rule. While I can sympathise with their problems, these do not give the right to ignore traffic lights or pedestrian crossings, go the wrong way up one-way streets, ride on pavements when the road is perfectly safe, or hassle pedestrians.

What really puzzles me, however, is the disappearance of the bicycle bell. Nowadays the standard methods of alerting pedestrians are a shout, an aggressive whistle, or a sudden screech of brakes from behind accompanied by at best a glare. The old bell was clear and friendly. Can anyone tell me where it has gone?

JOHN BURCHELL
Old Coulston,
Surrey

Sir: How curious that the famous healer Jack Temple should diagnose Diana, Princess of Wales, as suffering from lead poisoning as the consequence of piercing her cheek with a sharp lead pencil (Deborah Rose interview, 7 September). "Lead" pencils have not contained lead for over a century, lead having been replaced by graphite as the black core. It does make one wonder how reliable his other diagnoses are.

JOHN CROOKS
Teddington, Middlesex

Sir: If Bill Clinton decides finally to confront his accusers rather than cravenly trying to appease them, he might take heart from the following observation:

"Tis too frequent with noble men to be dishonest; piety, chastity and such like virtues are for private men: not to be

Battle of the Mall

Sir: I am embarrassed to be associated with the cant of Trevor Roberts (letter, 4 September), being a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, over which he presides.

The planning permission for the soon-to-open centre at Trafford was not issued glibly nor without lengthy and rigorous consideration of the likely traffic and town-centre impact.

Throughout the 13 years of planning this scheme, objectors, such as Mr Roberts, have had full opportunity to present all the evidence to support their case. This evidence was scrutinised by the best available independent planning inspectors and the decision was tested through legal challenge by the objectors right

through to the House of Lords.

There is massive support and mounting excitement amongst those without vested interests in the North-west, about the opening of a world-leading urban regeneration project, which has cost the public purse nothing. People like their leisure and shopping. It does not come any better than this. Why should this job-creating redevelopment of derelict land still be questioned by objectors who have had more than enough opportunity to have their say?

TONY TAPLEY
Partner, Head of Planning
Tapley, Commercial
Planning Consultants
London W1

Sir: The £60m Trafford Centre in Greater Manchester ("The mall

that ate Manchester", 2 September) exemplifies all that is wrong about our over-designed and modernised age. It will have everything we want, and nothing we really need.

It is a prime example of what are called "edge cities" in the US - designed places full of plazas, malls, parking lots and corporate opportunity, offering the "total living and shopping experience". But no one actually likes them. They have no history, no civic structure, no sense of community.

Orange County in southern California has three edge cities, and is described by the authorities as "a theme park - and the theme is you can have anything you want." This is a terrible and taunting myth. Everything is so perfect, say the authorities, why should anyone want to change any of it? Indeed, some cities have deed restrictions that prevent people from customising their own homes. There are 2,000 edge cities in the US.

Some 50 per cent of people living in Britain's cities are said to want to move to the countryside. But do they really want ghost towns or dormitory villages? Most are in search of some kind of idyll, places rich in community spirit, where there is a sense of place and history. People want local shops, schools, pubs and churches. Yet each year we lose 1,000 local food shops. Now 45 per cent of all rural parishes no longer have a shop or post office, and 60 per cent have no school.

Let us find ways to protect our rural and urban communities - not ruin them with brave new and spiritless developments.

JULES PRETTY
Director
Centre for Environment and
Society
University of Essex
Colchester

Lockerbie challenge

Sir: The two Pan Am Flight 103 relatives who met the Foreign Secretary on 24 August did not know from the meeting how limited the progress on Lockerbie has been.

On the face of it, it seemed good that something had been done to break the seven-year impasse. We welcomed the decision by the UK and the US to accept Libya's offer to give up the two bombing suspects for trial in a third country. (Apparently this caused the US no pain as they had long ago given up on the trial being in the US.) We were told the deal required a lot of negotiation separately between Britain and US, and between Britain and the Netherlands, where the trial is supposed to be held under Scottish law. Libya, which would in the end have to be a party to any agreement, was never involved.

For the record, the draft UK-Netherlands agreement has not been signed, nor has the Queen signed the Order in Council necessary for the trial to go ahead. It is not surprising that Gaddafi has not agreed to on offer that lacks substance. Madeleine Albright's telling Libya to take it or leave it was an extraordinary game, but no one has told her off. The UN was put in a silly position as the messenger.

I ask the Government three questions:

1. Do you intend to find out why 36 UK citizens were murdered on Flight 103, who was criminally responsible, and how could it have happened, given the warnings and the intelligence services? (These are not my words but those of Baroness Symons, Minister of State, at a meeting with relatives in March 1998)

2. Do you agree that the relatives want the truth, and that without the truth there can be no justice?

3. Do you agree that if you want the trial, the UK, not the UN, must negotiate directly with Libya?

MARTIN CADMAN
Burnham Market, Norfolk

The writer's son, Bill Codman, was on Flight 103

Facts without soap

Sir: By implying that we are elevating "thieves, drug addicts and even murderers" to celebrity status ("Prisoners to become stars of fly-on-cell-wall documentary", 31 August) you have misrepresented my contribution to the debate on docu-soaps at the Edinburgh Television Festival. My precise point was: we on *Inside Story* are not in the business of gratuitously glamourising serious subjects.

During the debate I was clarifying the definition of docu-soaps. As the producer of two docu-soaps, *Crusoe* and *Soho Stories*, I am well aware of their popularity. But I was stressing that these are very different from my work on factual output, such as *Inside Story*, and reminding the debate that there is still a place for traditional documentary subjects about important issues of the day.

To illustrate my point, I spoke about the filming of a women's prison in Yorkshire. It is still early days; it was commissioned as an *Inside Story*, and might even become a series, but what it will not be is a soap opera trivialising people's lives. Months of hard work will hopefully result in a programme that significantly contributes to our understanding of the stresses and pressures that confront those living and working in a prison environment.

By using trusted documentary making techniques - gaining access to a women's prison and building relationships with contributors - we have a unique opportunity to show the audience some hard truths about Britain in the late 20th century.

CHRISTOPHER TERRILL
Senior Producer
Documentaries Department
BBC Production
London W12

Land girl found hiding in Wilts thought WWII was still on

HOW WELL do you follow the news? Well? Very well? So well that you actually watch the BBC 24 Hours News service, which not even John Birt does?

Then how would you like to test your knowledge of current affairs? All you have to do is read the following six stories taken from the last week and decide which ones are true and which are false.

Are you ready to put your money where your mouth is? Then let's go!

1. In one of the longest-running legal cases in the north of England, Mr Thomas Pettigrew has been suing a large airport for invasion of his property while building a new runway. The case had only been running for seven years when Mr Pettigrew suddenly died six months ago. His son, Dan, has inherited the property and the law suit, for he is

determined to win where his father never quite succeeded. But Sir Ernest Chalmers, the judge who was trying the case has also recently died and his place has been taken, by an extraordinary coincidence, by his son, Nigel Chalmers. It is believed to be the first time a legal case has gone to the second generation on both sides.

It is a tribute to the British legal system, "says an expert." In some countries you'd get the law rushing in and trying to settle a case hastily while all parties to it were still alive. In Britain, thank goodness, we still take our time."

2. Rupert Murdoch originally wanted to buy the England football team, not the Manchester United club. But he was persuaded by experts that as England was only allowed to pick English players, not

expensive French and Italian imports, it was never likely to become a winning proposition and he went for Manchester United instead.

He was also warned by experts that although Manchester United was extremely wealthy, it was also one of the most hated clubs in the world. He said he knew the feeling and went ahead with the deal.

A ghastly mix-up occurred in a small village in Kent, when Neighbourhood Watch member Sheila McBonnet noticed that the windows of Rose Cottage were wide open, even though the occupants, the Melchrist family, were on holiday. Miss McBonnet bravely climbed through the ground floor window to search the house for intruders. Meanwhile, Col Rodney Anson (retd), also active in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, passed by

the house five minutes later and spotted an intruder moving around inside the Melchrist family house, which was supposed to be empty.

Very courageously he too entered the house and tackled the supposed robber. Sheila McBonnet fought back viciously, thinking she had been attacked by the burglar. By the time Sheila McBonnet and Col Anson (retd) had recognised each other, they had inflicted painful bodily harm on each other.

It is believed to be the first example of two members of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme attacking each other," commented a local police spokesman. "Luckily, neither of them preferred charges, which suited us fine, as we needed all available manpower to get after the burglar." When it was pointed out to the police that there was in fact no burglary, he said: "Oops, you've got a point there. Luckily we made absolutely no progress anyway."

4. A small partial eclipse of the sun which was due to take place in South America last week did not in fact happen. This was apparently because it failed to attract any local business sponsorship. Scientists see it as a first sinister sign of natural phenomena becoming dependent on subsidies and handouts.

5. Rex Stainforth had been working for five years on a book about urban mythology, and was in fact en route to the publishers with his manuscript when he decided to stop off for a drink. When he came out of the pub he got back into the wrong car and drove off. He only realised his mistake when, looking in the glove compartment for the typewriter at a red traffic light, he found a severed hand. Then a voice from the back seat said loudly and clearly: "Put all three of your hands

up!" Stainforth jumped from the car and ran for his life until he found another pub. He was about to order a drink when he realised that the barman only had one hand, and was looking at him very oddly...

6. An elderly land girl has been found alive and well living in Swithland Forest in Wiltshire, apparently convinced that the Second World War was still going on. Thinking that the Germans were almost certainly winning, she had kept very much to herself for 50 years. Now in her late seventies, she had never seen television, computers or The Beatles. Now that she has, she doesn't think much of them.

Well? Spot the wrong 'uns'? That's right - well done! They were all false except the story involving Ken Livingstone and the indomitable Jeffrey Archer doll.

**MILES
KINGTON**

Now in her late
seventies, she had never
seen television,
computers or The Beatles

Spotted in V50

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 8 September 1998

Facts without

Mr Hague's stunt is a sideshow to the real euro debate

THE DECISION by the Leader of the Opposition to bring forward his ballot of party members on his European policy may or may not be born out of panic, but it certainly looks that way. The announcement was unexpected and dramatic. In political terms it was the kind of show move that has not so far been characteristic of Mr Hague's leadership of his party. The move has succeeded in commanding attention and in gaining the initiative for him, at a time when the Europhiles in his party have been again voicing their reservations about the official policy on the euro, and when even Lady Thatcher, albeit for very different reasons, has been casting doubt on his ability to win the next election. It is easy to see how Mr Hague will gain some short-term political advantage from his hastily arranged plebiscite. But it is much harder to perceive the lasting good it will do him, his party or the country.

Mr Hague is a shrewd man and has obviously calculated that most Tory party members will back him. The grass roots are by no means all Eurosceptic, but doubt about the European project, often co-existing with a nostalgia for Maggie, is well represented amongst the more active elements, the ones, importantly, most likely to bother to vote (will telephone voting be an option, by the way?). Moreover, the Conservative membership has, after all, already backed Mr Hague's leadership in a nationwide one-member-one-vote ballot, and would be loath to contradict themselves by humiliating Mr Hague now. By appealing over the heads of the Europhile grandees, he will be able to answer the criticisms that will inevitably emerge at the fringes of the Conservative Party conference by pointing at the overwhelming backing of his membership. The line will be clear; the grandees are out of date and out of touch; look at the result of our referendum. The critics should shut up and go away.

No doubt Mr Hague will get his way. But his referendum will not silence his critics, and nor should it. First they and he know the precise nature of this particular vote. Asking your own members to, in effect, "back me or sack me", is to up the stakes to the point where only the most suicidal would be prepared to lose yet another leader on the European issue. Making it an issue of leadership as much as policy is a distortion of the proper use of a referendum to which political leaders are prey when in a tight corner. The second doubt surrounds the extent of the debate that will be possible. Why hold the debate in the short time remaining before the party conference, rather than at the conference itself? Debate

is, after all, what conferences are for, even in an era of OMOV fetishism. The third query surrounds what Mr Hague and his spin doctors will take to be an "overwhelming" endorsement of the leadership line. If past trends are anything to go on, this will be modest indeed, with expectations, especially about a low turnout, carefully massaged.

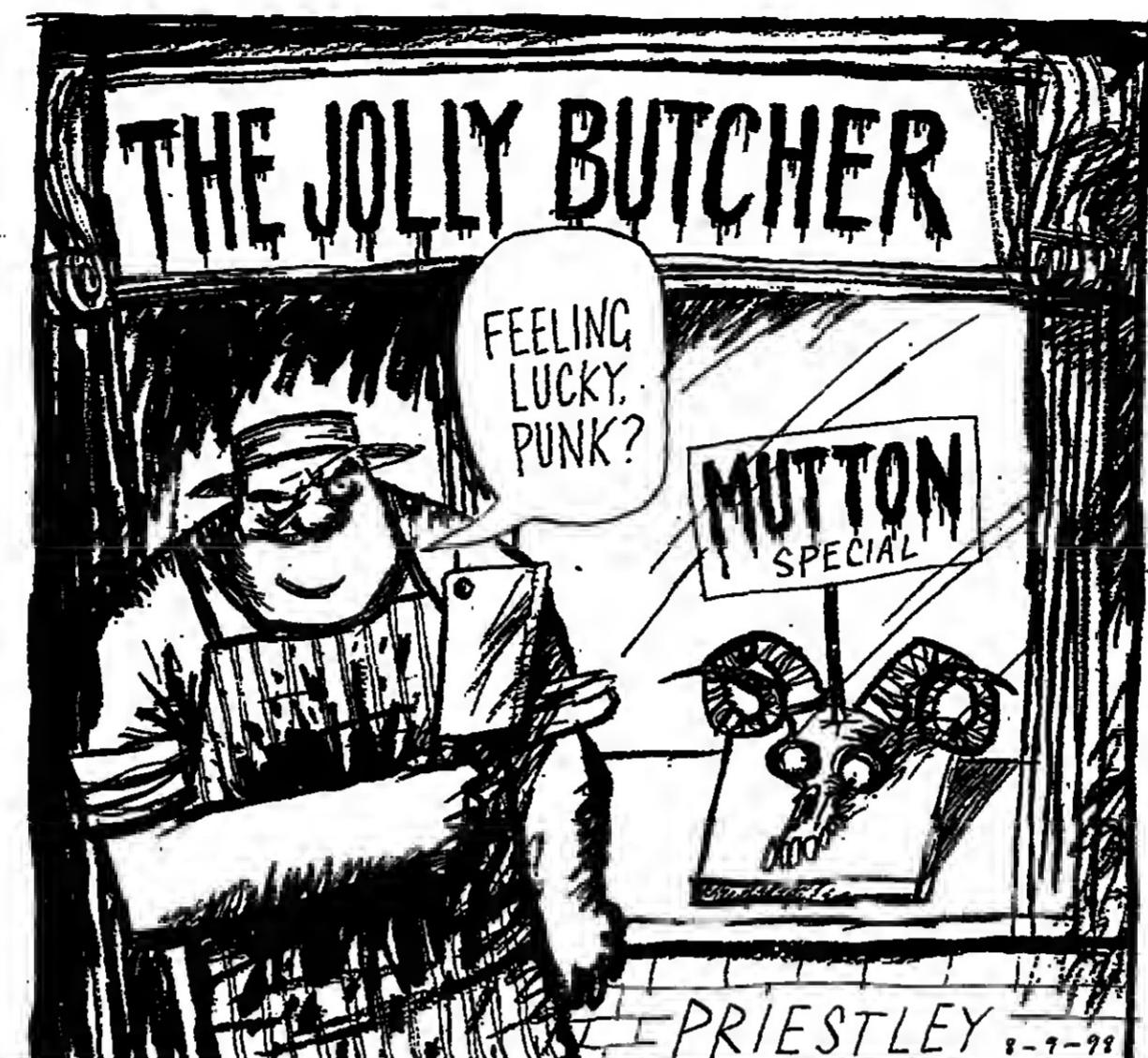
Most seriously of all, it is a perversion of democracy to take, as the Tory leadership imply, a given result in a rather rickety vote as a signal to silence debate. This is, as all would agree, one of the most important, fundamental, far-reaching decisions for a political party to take. It is incumbent upon all in the Tory Party to speak out

for what they believe in, and put "country before party". Mr Hague's critics may or may not be out-of-touch with the party's grass-roots. But even if they are, that does not make them wrong, and it does not make it wrong for them to voice their doubts about the wisdom of Mr Hague's policy. One suspects that, when it comes to the real referendum on joining the euro, the one that the British people as a whole will vote in, the voices of those who appear to be in such a beleaguered minority in Mr Hague's party will find a much more sympathetic bearing than they will in Mr Hague's new stunt. It is Mr Hague who will look out of touch and old-fashioned when the people speak.

LEADERS AND COMMENT/3

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It is time the West understood Islam

IRAN CONTINUES to deny that her disputes with Taliban-controlled Afghanistan will lead to open conflict. Border clashes, and the disappearance of Iranians in Afghan territory, while serious, do not seem a reason for all-out war; but there is more to their rivalry than that. Fundamentalist Afghanistan has turned to Pakistan as its protector; Iran, in the process of liberalisation and *rapprochement* with the West, faces the prospect of maintaining a long and unstable border with an absolutist anti-Western state. She has turned to Russia as her only available sponsor, reviving military and economic links from the 1980s.

Beyond those immediate political realities, there is the clash between two Islamic traditions, a new Iranian Shi'ite pragmatism and Afghan Sunni radicalism. Those who have tried to paint Islam as one great bloc, from Morocco in the West to Indonesia in the East, should think again: religious and political differences in that world are as rife as in Europe.

A glance at the map shows how many trouble spots surround Afghanistan. Pakistan and India look on anxiously in their own nuclear Cold War; Saddam Hussein would dearly love Iran to be distracted. The ex-Soviet states of Central Asia are economically vulnerable as the price of their oil falls; Russia's crisis would be exacerbated if they were to be drawn into war once again.

The West, used to seeing Iran as an enemy, should realise that times - and nations - change. Iran may now act as a bulwark of stability against a renegade Afghanistan. Madeline Albright's recent attempts to build bridges with Iran have been welcome, but we should go further, and stop demonising great tracts of the rest of the Islamic world. A policy of engagement is long overdue.

A proper charlie

ADVOCATES OF constitutional reform may as well have been handed the 10th Earl of Hardwicke's head on a platter. A 27-year-old hereditary peer is allegedly caught selling cocaine in the House of Lords. Theoretically there for last week's anti-terrorism legislation, he said he wouldn't vote because he couldn't be bothered. His only role within the Conservative Party is as a member of two committees - film and motor scooters - though he rarely goes to meetings. He turns up twice a week at the Lords to collect his £140-a-day attendance allowance. Three cheers for the stupid toff! And good riddance to the House of Lords...

Adultery, wife-swapping and the complicated sexual mores of today

IT IS not surprising that the most successful newspaper in Britain today is *Adultery News* (sold under the euphemistic moniker of the *Daily Mail*), which devotes itself almost solely to tales of infidelity, both ancient and modern. In Saturday's shamefully exciting edition, for instance, we might discover the post-Great War tale of the then Prince of Wales's passionate affair with the wife of a Liberal MP; Freda Dudley Ward.

And then, yesterday, came an equally enthralling episode dealing with the illicit liaison between his brother (later George VI) and Sheila, Lady Loughborough who, appropriately, was an Australian. But this was to be found only after we had drawn the net curtains again on pieces dealing with the latest accusations against Bill Clinton, and the delightful story of how a Seventies wife-swapping session cost Richard Branson his greatest love.

Nothing gets us going like breaking out of turn. Not least, apparently, because infidelity justifies a level of interest in the minutiae of other people's sexual lives that marriage never does. When was the last time you read about a husband and wife enjoying a "steamy romp", or revealing that so and so (their partner of 20 years) was a ten-times-a-night man? Never; that's when. By contrast, also in yesterday's *Adultery News*, a man called Daniel Jeffreys wrote of the US president that "he had engaged in sexual acts that even the most seasoned libertine might hesitate to request" with the young intern Monica L. Crikely, Daniel!

What Jeffreys points to, however - albeit unwittingly - is how complex sexual etiquette has become. The

revelations threatening to drive the Clinton presidency over the precipice are not so much the sex itself (all cigar and no talk, apparently), as the timing of the sex. Washington is said to be reeling from the news that, according to NBC, "Monica Lewinsky had a sexual encounter with the President in his White House study, hours after Clinton attended Easter services with his family."

Hours after an Easter service? Hot dog! Clinton should have left it how long exactly? Would one day have been sufficient? Or perhaps till the end of Easter week? And would it have been all right to have had sex with Hillary just after the Easter service? For Bill, I mean. But in fact Clinton's sin was worse than even a Christian service proximity one. This particular service was "filled with references to the death of Commerce Secretary Ron, killed in a plane crash in Croatia earlier that week".

You can see how tricky this is getting. Just how long after a Commerce Secretary is killed should a President decently wait before "making requests" of a buxom intern? A week? A month? Longer in the case of a foreign head of state? Then there is the allegation that another "sex session" took place as Yasser Arafat walked in the Rose Garden for a rendezvous with the President. It is clearly wrong to keep a guest waiting, but is it also wrong to have adulterous sex an hour before meeting an important dignitary?

It is little wonder that some of my older colleagues bark back to less complicated days. William Rees-Mogg writing in *The Times* yesterday, made the unfashionable point that a


DAVID AARONOVITCH

How long after a colleague is killed should a President wait before "making requests" of an intern?

president who lies to his wife is also likely to be a murderer. Though Mr Mogg (as I like to think of him) admits there is no evidence, as such, of homicidal activity on Clinton's part, he suggests that the 22 deaths of people in some way associated with the Clintons - including eight suicides and five plane crash fatalities - are very suspicious when you consider what Bill got up to with Monica.

This is a connection that many of us make, though usually less eccentrically. Infidelity seems to be both the most interesting and the most threatening of domestic crimes, involving intricate deception and the dilution of valid passion with the nasty finds of calculation. The modern romantic image that most of us have of relationships is of honesty, openness and commitment. The contract is for sole, vacant possession. In recent years private eyes have got quite a lot of

business from women in Britain and America who want to see whether their men can be entrapped into agreeing to have casual sex with a beautiful stranger encountered in a bar or pub. Should they fail the test, they are dropped. And they do all fail.

But the end of a relationship, say the romantics, is not the end of life. True, the thinking has gone, an affair must end the marriage. That's sad, but you then divide the spoils, settle the spousal rights, and get on with the next passionate relationship, which you hope will be the last. This pattern is called serial monogamy. And the only problem with it is that it is completely unrealistic, seriously damages children and will almost certainly result in a repetition of the behaviour that ended the first relationship.

The costs of serial monogamy are becoming better understood. And there are many worse things than infidelity in modern marriages. I know of at least one woman, once intelligent and vibrant, who - over 20 years - has been turned into a shadowy drudge by her belittling, scornful, pathologically jealous, ever-faithful husband. You can't say that about Mrs Clinton, now can you?

But just because I think that adultery is not the ultimate sin, and is usually not worth breaking up a home for (certainly not one with children in it), that is not the same as saying that it is mostly a good idea.

And we could take as our text for worrying about it no less an authority than that Sidus marvel, Richard Branson himself. As his wife Joan says about him, the Virgin boss has always had weaknesses for "ticky cake and beautiful women" (with Bill Clinton it

is, of course, the other way around). In his autobiography Branson tells how he lost his first wife, Kristen, to the rock star Kevin Ayers, as the result of a wife-swapping party. Described, inevitably, in yesterday's *Adultery News*, the setting was his "romantic houseboat in London's Little Venice. Cushions were scattered on the floor. The scene was set for swapping and seduction." And, apparently, all readers of *Adultery News* now know to avoid houseboats with floor cushions.

So Richard went off with Kevin's Cyrille, leaving Kristen behind. And Kristen and Kevin subsequently fell in love, went off together and had a child, a drug problem and a divorce. Richard spent a few years trying to entice her back, and failed. What he'd taken for sanctioned, positive adultery, she'd interpreted as an indication of a lack of real feeling and sympathy. And she may well have been right; infidelity, like silence, is hard to interpret. Yet interpret it we must.

What then are we left with, we fallible people? To bend a Thatcher phrase, I think that it shows that there are no rules, only relationships. Each one is complex and messy, consisting of the chemical reaction, over time, between two separate pathologies. In that sense, all liaisons are dangerous. Each one has to be discussed on its merits.

Incongruously, you may think, yesterday's *Adultery News* also carried a page - twist Bill and Dick - entitled "The Good Relationship Guide". It makes the (controversial) point that what works in one situation may not in another. We all need to judge less and understand more. Amen.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The board has noted recent press speculation and confirms that it is in discussions which may or may not lead to an offer being made for Manchester United."
BSkyB

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Whilst we have prisons, it matters little which of us occupy the cells."
George Bernard Shaw,
Irish playwright

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
American opinion on Clinton's worsening crisis



count of the ballot, and be aware of the number of folks who are still bent on excusing his failings as no better than ought to be expected from a mere mortal, the values of which he is steward, our values, are in sore need of an overhaul.
American Democrat Gazette

WE WHO are content to let others steer the ship of state needed to hear Lieberman's message as much as did Clinton. We put our trust in him, whether by choice or by

WITH FRIENDS like these, who needs Republicans? President Clinton returns to Washington to find Democrats in a distinctly uglier mood than when he left. Even since the respected centrist Senator Joe Lieberman gave the signal from the Senate floor with a searing moral indictment, lawmakers on the left have been preparing to jump the Clinton ship. He made it possible for Democrats to bolt if the Starr report is as bad as people expect. In this snapshot moment,

it certainly looks bleak for him. Of course, given the Comeback Kid's record of escaping from tight spots at the last minute, all bets are off.
Time Daily

LIEBERMAN'S DENUNCIATION of Clinton on the floor of the Senate must not be taken as simply the first desertion of the president by a stalwart supporter in his party. Lieberman speaks for the nation. The nation too has made up its mind that it must not leave the im-

pression that what the president did was acceptable, and that it must be followed with some measure of public rebuke and accountability.
Boston Herald

WE WHO are content to let others steer the ship of state needed to hear Lieberman's message as much as did Clinton. We put our trust in him, whether by choice or by

baffled his nation. Increasingly, though, others do. Talk of an unprecedent censure by the Senate has grown steadily since the president's admission. Legal pedantry may work when you are talking to a jury. And soulful dissembling may work when you are preaching to a choir. But like a cheap set of curtains, Clinton's rhetorical drapes are increasingly transparent. As the mutterings in Congress suggest, they are increasingly tattered, too.
USA Today

PANDORA

IT SEEMS that Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France, will definitely not be joining the summit of world leaders, including Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, who gather to discuss "the Third Way" at New York University on 21 September. Pandora has learned of a letter the socialist Frenchman has written declining the invitation, in which he suggests that "the Third Way" is absurd. And that, if Democrat Clinton and Labour's Blair want to be, respectively, Republican and Conservative, they should just go ahead and join.

DO YOU have the guts to join the world of lifestyle journalism? Under the headline "The best job in London (that's legal)", the National Magazine Company, publishers of Cosmopolitan, Esquire and Harpers & Queen, are advertising for a new in-house PR flack. Pandora rang Nat Mags and asked what they considered "the best job in London", presumably illegal? "Goodness knows. That was just a gimmick to grab people's attention," said a spokesperson from the company's Human Resources department. Meanwhile, what are the job requirements? "Someone who returns calls, isn't scared of publishers, has ideas we haven't thought of and is a legend in their own lunch-time." Presumably that's serious.

WHILE SAINSBURY'S has recently announced that it will stop its sponsorship activities at this year's Labour Conference, the Conservative Party seems finally to be waking up to the joys of sponsorship. When the Tory agent in Lewes, Sussex, complained about the annual report of Lib Dem MP Norman Baker, which was sponsored by a local theme park, she was firmly slapped down by Conservative Central Office. She was told, "The sad fact is that our MPs should be doing it and it's what our former MPs should have been doing."

DAVID LELAND'S new film, *The Land Girls*, starring the admirable Anna Friel (pictured), has been given a "12" certificate because of some of the romantic scenes involving several members of the women's Home Guard. However, much of the film was shot on location in Somerset and Devon using a number of local residents, including children. Many of the kids were keen to see themselves on the big screen. As a result, the manager of Tiverton's cinema got permission for the film to carry a PG certificate locally. "There's no nudity, just a few sexy goings on," says Tim King.



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of West Somerset District, which co-ordinated the tourism side of the film. "The local community is doing a lot to cash in... I mean, er, make the most of the film's publicity."

RICHARD BRANSON'S unhappy reaction to losing his wife Kristen after a wife-swapping session with rock singer Kevin Ayers has been fully documented in recent days. What hasn't been explored is the satisfaction Branson obtained when Ayers himself subsequently got dumped in Majorca by Kristen for a German architect named Axel Ball. Ball is largely responsible for turning the beautiful, unspoiled artists' colony of Deia, home to the late poet Robert Graves, into an upmarket villa resort for wealthy Germans, French and Brits. When Ball took Kristen away from Ayers, Branson rewarded Ball by helping him to develop Deia's luxury Residencia Hotel; it is now a Virgin Hotel. In subsequent years, Branson asked Ball, now married to Kristen, to help him develop other new glamorous resorts, including one on the Greek island of Hydra and another in the Majorcan village of Banyalbufar. (The latter has run into trouble with Spanish planning authorities who are anxious to preserve this remaining stretch of Majorca's beautiful north coast.) Unsurprisingly, Ayers sold his Deia house and moved to France.

AFRO-AMERICAN soul singer Chaka Khan is currently revitalising her career on tour with Prince (that is "the Artist"). However, she took time out to comment on Clinton's missile attack on Sudan. Speaking to the World Entertainment News Network, she broke down in tears and blurted, "Africans are dying because of what Bill Clinton did with his dick". The Network found Chaka's soulful political outburst less than entertaining and promptly edited it out.

Why we English hate ourselves



TERENCE BLACKER

*'Apples? English apples?'
The greengrocer reacted to my enquiry with what seemed to be genuine rage*

I NEED to sell some apples. Second only to the harvesting of puffballs, it can be a useful second income, sometimes running into three figures. This time last year I sold a few boxes of Discoveries from Suffolk through a local greengrocer in Hammersmith, but the life expectancy of any Askew Road retail outlet not selling alcohol, bargain bathroom utensils or plumbing equipment is less than 12 months, and inevitably my outlet has since closed. So this year I tried Fulham.

"Apples? English apples?" The greengrocer reacted to my enquiry with what seemed to be genuine rage. He led me to an apple display at the back of the shop. "You know what I can't do? I can't shift. Because that's all they're worth. I can't give them away."

"People don't like apples any more?"

"I'll show you what they like." He pointed to the front of the shop and a box of larger apples, glowing with bland, shiny tastelessness. "New Zealand. Double the price. Half the flavour. Yet still they buy them. Suddenly all people want is foreign stuff. What's wrong with this country?"

Alarmed that an innocent sales pitch had prompted what might become an assault on my delicate liberal sensibilities, I was relieved when a Fulham type in her late twenties drifted in from the street. But the tirade continued, in a low, angry mutter. "They don't buy English apples, that lot," he said, nodding in the woman's direction, as she checked out the herbs. "Used

to. Not now. It's like football - all nifty little foreigners. Tony Adams!" He thrust out his chest and squared his shoulders in a parody of the solid, English-as-roast-beef central defender. "Forget it." I bought a lettuce and left.

As a general rule, philosophers of the street can safely be ignored. There's no reason why an angry Fulham greengrocer should have any deeper insight into life's eternal verities than a Fascist taxi-driver or a brainless actor on the Des O'Connor Show, but events over the past few days have made me wonder whether that Fulham Alf Garnett may not have been on to something.

Glen Hoddle, for example, seems to have become a new national hate figure. Even before our lads got stoned in Stockholm, who bewilderingly have taken to portraying him as a teapot. Yet it seems like only a couple of months ago that we all rather liked Glenn. He had been a great player, and seemed a decent club manager. By footballing standards, the conduct of his private and business lives seemed relatively straightforward, if a touch too ag-

gressively Christian for some. He managed to get the England team to the World Cup where, apart from a few dodgy selection decisions, his campaign was thought to be generally rather successful.

What went wrong? Why did he suddenly become loathed, in the same way that every England manager of recent years has been loathed? His support of a faith-healer as an aid to football management was slightly embarrassing, it was true. The publication of his kick-and-tell World Cup diary revealed a certain lack of dignity and judgement. But nothing quite explains the venom and contempt which he now has to endure.

Unless the greengrocer was right. Perhaps there is something self-loathing within the national psyche that, at the slightest excuse, will find expression in a contempt for all things English. Last week the novelist John Lanchester, as he interviewed Julian Barnes, was to be found bemoaning the fact that, while English fiction is thought internationally to be in a healthy state, it is regularly held up to ridicule by the small army of critics and media

academics who influence literary opinion in this country.

In politics, it's noticeable that within the very circles where the result of last year's election was greeted as a bright, long-awaited new dawn, a bitter disenchantment with the new establishment has become evident. Every new rumour - that the V&A Museum may be renamed, that Trafalgar Square may be pedestrianised, that the Royal Family may be made more accountable - is held up as another example of the Government's obsession with a naif populism. It's as if already the new cynics have forgotten how far we have travelled since the days when we had a hopeless, floundering government, when Michael Howard was on the radio every morning patronising us, and when characters like Rhodes Boyson and David Evans were taken seriously.

This is dangerous ground, of course. The last great campaign of patriotism was launched by Robert Maxwell. The need to be proud of English success has recently become a rallying cry of Jeffrey Archer. Perhaps I had better eat those apples myself.

Another day, another terrible Balkan tragedy



RUPERT CORNWELL
What is happening in Kosovo is a tragedy. Once again, Milosevic has called our bluff.

HISTORY, IT has famously been observed, repeats itself: first as tragedy, then as farce. But the Balkans, as usual, defy convention. For what is happening in Kosovo is tragedy. At least the West has learnt the lesson of Bosnia, we said - myself included - when the Yugoslav army began its crackdown last March, and NATO quickly responded by stepping up sanctions against Belgrade and carrying out air combat exercises close to Kosovo's border with Albania.

Six months on, just as he once did in Bosnia, Slobodan Milosevic has again called the West's bluff. His practised antennae have detected that, for all NATO's chest-thumping, for all the imprecations of "Never Again", we did not have the stomach to intervene militarily. With each communiqué of the Contact Group of major powers set up to deal with the former Yugoslavia, the threats of force and the mantralike repetition that "all options are open" rang hollow. And now the top Western policymakers have forgotten.

True, a US delegation has just completed a fact-finding mission and unearthed some truly disturbing facts. Moreover, the outlines of a plan for a ceasefire, followed by an interim political settlement, could be emerging. But Washington is paralysed as it waits for the Starr report. Germany, the European country with most at stake in the Balkans, is less than three weeks from a general election. And compared to the lurid scandal engulfing President Clinton, the verdigris crisis in Russia, and the turmoil on the world's financial markets, what does this tiresome, seemingly interminable squabble in a remote south-eastern corner of Europe matter? So Milosevic has seized his moment.

His current seven-week offensive in Serbia's southern province

seems to have broken the back of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which is fighting for full independence, and forced the KLA's most effective units to seek sanctuary in neighbouring countries. Over 250,000 people have been displaced, with 50,000 of them living in the open the harsh Balkan winter approaches. And there are even more sinister similarities with Bosnia in the dark years between 1992 and summer 1995.

Just as in Bosnia, events in Kosovo "are rapidly developing into a humanitarian catastrophe," to borrow the words of Bob Dole, the former presidential candidate and an early - but long unheeded - advocate of strong action against the Bosnian Serbs. Worse still, we are told of how Serbs are separating men from among the Kosovo Albanian refugees and taking them off. From eyewitnesses, the US team has heard "chilling" accounts of atrocities. The war's official death toll of "hundreds" will surely have to be revised sharply upwards. Even the concentration camps of the Bosnian war could be on the verge of a

comeback, following the announcement by Belgrade of ten "assisted points" where refugees may settle - under the very tightest scrutiny and control, it may be assumed, of the Serbian security forces.

And remember the disastrous trip of the former Secretary of State Warren Christopher to London in May 1993, which laid bare the differences between the Western allies and gave Messrs Karadzic and Milosevic their opportunity? Today, Washington and the Europeans are bickering again. This time, the US special envoy Christopher Hill has accused the EU of ignoring Kosovo, in its obsession with creating a united Europe which excludes the Balkans. And who is to blame him? Gathered in solemn session in Salzburg at the weekend, the EU's Foreign Ministers took note of their failure to install Felipe González as a mediator in Kosovo... and agreed to ban flights to their countries by the Yugoslav airline JAT. Ban flights? But didn't they decide precisely that back in June? Well, yes, but nothing actually happened. And even now, Britain insists on 12 months to bring it into force.

There are no easy answers. If Bosnia was Warren Christopher's "problem from hell", Kosovo comes from somewhere nearby. Undoubtedly, the KLA has committed atrocities of its own. It has no clearcut leadership; its earlier successors undermined Ibrahim Rugova, the political leader of the Kosovo Albanians who remains the best bet for a negotiated compromise. And Kosovo, province of Serbia, differs from Bosnia, which was an independent state when the Bosnian Serbs set about destroying it. Clearly, Western intervention against the wishes of an independent country's government raises more delicate questions of international law.

But the basics have not changed. 90 per cent of Kosovo's population is Albanian, whose previous limited political autonomy was removed by President Milosevic as he succumbed to the rabid Serb nationalism that detonated the entire Balkan conflict. The blame for the Kosovo crisis lies with him, and he should be stopped. Fear of igniting a wider conflagration in the south Balkans was one reason why NATO was so chary of air strikes earlier this year. Now, however, the flux of KLA fighters and Kosovar refugees into neighbouring Albania and Macedonia only makes that danger greater.

It would be nice to think that the suppression of the guerrillas is seen by President Milosevic as a unpleasant but necessary prelude to a political settlement with the moderates, and the return of a generous measure of autonomy to the province. Such is the plan elaborated by Mr Hill, which stops short of independence but which allows the agreement to be re-opened after three years. But we trust the Yugoslav leader at our peril. He is

a master at stalling. Kosovo is merely proving anew what Bosnia long since proved - that the only language Mr Milosevic understands is the imminent or actual use of force.

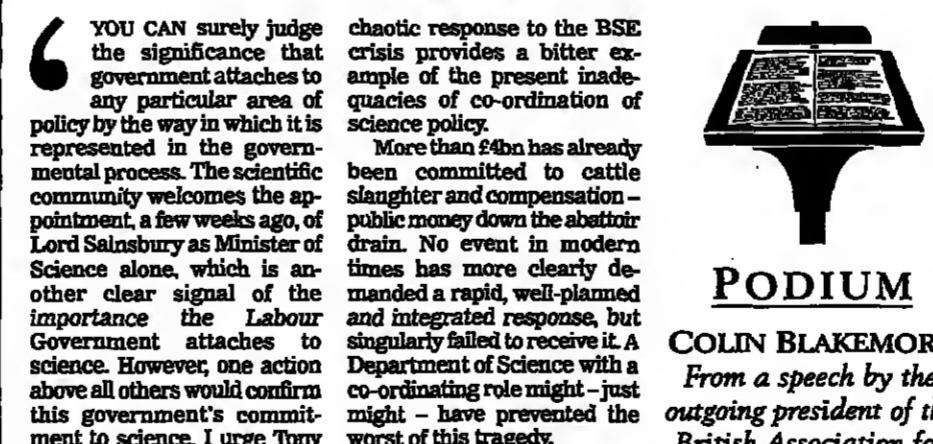
We have the luxury of persuading ourselves that Kosovo is Milosevic's last stand. Croatia and Slovenia have gone, the former Macedonia has gone; Montenegro is going. Only Serbia - a war-drained and war-weary pariah Serbia - is left. Kosovo, where the Balkan war began, will mark his demise. But the Kosovo Albanians, as the first snows of winter settle on the hilltops, soon will have no such comfort.

Barring retreat by Mr Milosevic, NATO will have to intervene to prevent the humanitarian catastrophe of which Mr Dole warned. At the very least a demilitarisation of Kosovo is required. And words alone will no longer do. "One thing I'm sure of," the German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel opined at the weekend, "Milosevic is not going to win this confrontation." To which one sadly re-acts: Oh, no?



Kosovo families forced to leave their homes by civil war

Science at the heart of government



COLIN BLAKEMORE
From a speech by the outgoing president of the British Association for Science at the Science Festival, Cardiff

CYOU CAN surely judge the significance of what government attaches to any particular area of policy by the way in which it is treated in the governmental process. The scientific community welcomes the appointment, a few weeks ago, of Lord Sainsbury as Minister of Science alone, which is another clear signal of the Labour Government's attachment to science. However, one action above all others would confirm this government's commitment to science. I urge Tony Blair to establish an independent Ministry of Science and a Cabinet position for its Minister.

Liberated from the DTI, and with broader powers, the new Ministry could establish a more coherent management structure, extend consultative and advisory links to all the other arms of government, and co-ordinate the whole of science policy. An independent Ministry of Science would also be better placed, and have more authority, to orchestrate the response of different departments to unexpected and urgent scientific problems. The

chaotic response to the BSE crisis provides a bitter example of the present inadequacies of co-ordination of science policy.

More than £4bn has already

been committed to cattle

slaughter and compensation

- public money down the

abattoir drain.

No event in modern

times has more clearly de-

manded a rapid, well-planned

and integrated response,

but singularly failed to receive it. A

Department of Science with a

co-ordinating role might just

might have prevented the

worst of this tragedy.

An independent Ministry of

Science should be given the

resources and the links with

other departments to help de-

velop long-term strategies in

areas for which science is rel-

evant, including in the Euro-

pean and international arenas.

I can suggest one urgent

topic for such strategic analy-

sis. It is the demographic time-

bomb of the world's ageing

population, which is, in my

opinion, still not being taken

sufficiently seriously. By the

middle of the next century,

more than one in 10 of the popu-

lation of Britain will be over

75. Our children's children will

expect to live to 100. We must, as a nation, plan now for a massive unbalancing of society, in which fewer and fewer young adults are supporting more and more of the retired. This remarkable demographic trend is testimony to the success of modern medicine in keeping most of the body going. We may imagine that, as people become more confident of a long and healthy life, many will want to retire later.

The reasons are fairly obvious. Scientists and engineers are underpaid, compared with other professionals, far below the average for accountants and managers. And there are just not enough jobs for scientists. Why not much better tax incentives for R&D; compulsory detailed reporting of R&D expenditure in annual reports; new schemes to encourage companies to sponsor undergraduates and employ them for periods between modular courses?

Ten years ago the British

public didn't know much about

science and didn't care. Now,

they know a little more but care

a great deal. I think that the

Penalty of a dodgy relationship



STEVE RICHARDS
Murdoch, once a prized asset, has become something of a liability for Mr Blair

LIKE ALL the best football matches, the relationship between Tony Blair and Rupert Murdoch falls neatly into two halves. Up until the general election, half-time let's say, their relationship was going swimmingly. *The Sun* warmly endorsed Tony Blair; and Labour duly swept into power. Since then, though, both men have singularly failed to realise that new rules now apply. And with Murdoch's bid to buy Manchester United, the game could well be up.

Let us deal first with the opening half, which was controversial enough. Blair and Alastair Campbell were absolutely right to woo Murdoch in advance of the election, and *The Sun's* endorsement was one of the triumphs of the pre-election strategy. Those masochistic Labour supporters who resented the careful wooing, or regarded *The Sun's* support as irrelevant, have short memories of the tabloid's capacity to relentlessly undermine Labour leaders. If anyone has doubts about *The Sun's* powers, ask Michael Foot or Neil Kinnock. It is not just the impact of Murdoch in the news, has assumed mythical proportions. It may not be as grand an honour as being the first journalist to set foot on Port Stanley, but it was the only British journalist to fly on that trip with the Blair entourage. It is time to demystify the event.

No formal deal was done with Murdoch during the brief 'News International' conference, in which both Blair and Murdoch made mutually appreciative speeches. I have no doubt that, informally, Murdoch was reassuringly told that Labour's policies for the media would not undermine his empire; but Blair did not have to go half-way round the world to make that point. He had already publicly stated the position in several interviews.

The aim of Blair and Campbell is on that exhausting, but worthwhile, journey to neutralise *The Sun* in the years leading up to the election. To get its endorsement was a bonus that neither expected as



Sky's bid to take over Manchester United presents Tony Blair with a dilemma

they flew back after the gathering. Remember also that Murdoch's embrace was strictly limited. *The Sunday Times* advised its readers to vote Conservative last year, and still seems to be pursuing a right-wing agenda. *The Times* recommended its readership to vote for Eurosceptic candidates of any party, which was hardly an endorsement of New Labour.

None the less, *The Sun* poured praise on to Blair, and saved its vitriol for its opponents. So, up until May 1997, the relationship with Murdoch worked. Ever since, it has been a political liability for Blair. He should have kept his distance once power had been safely secured.

Consider the editorial line of the Murdoch newspapers. If anything, their opposition to the single currency has reached greater intensity in recent months. Under a new editor, *The Sun* even dared to ask whether Blair had become the most dangerous man in Britain. *The Sunday Times*, regularly attack

success of the pre-election first half of the relationship. Blair will almost certainly have to fight a referendum on EMU without the support of *The Sun*, but the chance that that the tabloid can be swayed may dangerously delay the timing of such a campaign. The first-half triumph has had a related but wider consequence. It has led Blair to assume that, on all kinds of policy fronts, *The Sun* cannot be alienated, even if he possesses a much mightier weapon than a fickle newspaper: a three-figure majority.

More immediately, his relationship with Murdoch arouses understandable resentment among senior ministers. The likes of Gordon Brown and Robin Cook understood and admired the pre-election wooing of Murdoch. They are losing patience now. Their allies point out that *The Sun's* editorials, let alone those of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, regularly attack

In their view, *The Sun's* line is a personal one: it is pro-Blair; but not a supporter of the Government as a whole. In the short term, expect some coded, or not so coded, attacks on Murdoch from some ministers at the party conference (an easy way, as they know, to bring the house

down). In the longer term, several members of the Cabinet will not be minded to help Murdoch in his bid to become the owner of Manchester United. Nor will the Parliamentary Labour Party. There is a whole swath of Labour MPs, of whom Chris Mullin, the chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, is a prominent example, who believe that Blair was absolutely right to woo Murdoch before the election, but should have kept his distance once safely in power.

Instead, the continuing association has landed even the normally sure-footed Alastair Campbell in trouble. Did he when he briefed journalists about Blair's phone calls with the Italian Prime Minister in which Murdoch's interests were raised? Not precisely, but Campbell knew that his boss's relationship with Murdoch was so politically sensitive that journalists had to be diverted from the trail. He ended up being summoned to a backbench committee to explain his evasive behaviour. Campbell walked all over the committee, but that is not the point – the Blair/Murdoch relationship was a story.

This is the context in which Murdoch makes his bid for Manchester United. It could provide an unexpected twist. Consider this question: What if the bid had been masterminded by someone other than Murdoch waving a cool half-billion pounds?

My guess is that Blair's instincts would have supported such a takeover; if that was the wish of the shareholders, recognising that the sport had already become commercialised in Britain and around the world. I doubt if he would have agreed with the sentimental notion that the current era, under the chairmanship of Martin Edwards, created a friendly community club that had suddenly become threatened by a media mogul. He is a supporter of the market economy, and should have kept his distance once safely in power.

But it is not AN Other who wants to buy Manchester United. It is Murdoch, and this may make it more difficult for Blair to follow his instincts. (Privately Blair was supportive of Murdoch's decision not to publish Chris Patten's book on Hong Kong and China on commercial grounds. Why let one part of your business disrupt another? But publicly he could not express such a view because of suspicions that he held it only to keep in with Murdoch.) Imagine what the reaction will be if the football deal goes ahead:

Murdoch clicks his fingers and Blair does the business. The issue is made more complicated when the "people" evidently do not approve of the owner of the "people's newspaper". Furthermore, the juxtaposition of the entrepreneur Murdoch and grieving football fans places Blair's twin themes about the importance of modernity and a sense of community into apparent conflict.

In other words, Murdoch, once a prized asset, has become something of a liability for Blair. And that means he will tread especially carefully in Murdoch's bid for Manchester United: more carefully than if it was anybody else. Which means, of course, that the relationship is becoming counterproductive for Murdoch as well. In an exquisite irony, the relationship is becoming for Blair rather like the one he has with trade unions. He has to show he is being especially tough in order to convince the wider world he is not in Murdoch's pocket. Perhaps Murdoch and the union leaders should all get together for a drink, and comfort each other.

There is a good up-market bar owned by Manchester United plc. Steve Richards is the Political Editor of *New Statesman*'s

RIGHT OF REPLY



DON FOSTER
The Liberal Democrats' spokesman on education responds to our leading article

THE INDEPENDENT'S applause for Paddy Ashdown's "advocacy of our rights as citizens rather than subjects" is welcome. But it is very difficult to square it with your reaction to our Policy Review Commission's conclusions on school structures.

The need for change is clear. With one in nine pupils leaving school with no formal qualification, the education service is failing the nation. There's confusion about who is responsible for what. Most school governors, for example, cannot say for what, to whom and by what means they are accountable. And despite good intentions over many years, we've failed to make our schools a true community resource.

Part of our policy proposals to resolve such problems leaves strategic aspects of education policy, including admissions and entitlements, in the hands of elected Local Education Authorities (LEAs) operating within a framework laid down by parliament. However, it also proposes that local groups should be able to run individual schools or clusters of schools under contract with their LEAs. Groups who wish to form what would be called a Neighbourhood Schools Trust would be expected to demonstrate their ability to deliver the contract and involve the community they are to serve.

To describe this policy as a "well meaning [attempt] at local democracy" may be condescending but it is broadly accurate. To argue that it amounts to no more than a "charter for social misfits and busybodies" is bizarre.

As Gladstone said, "Liberalism is the trust of the people tempered by prudence." To criticise our proposals on education while urging "genuine Liberalism" upon us is to hit both the brake and the accelerator at the same time.

The pundits and the pontiff

TUESDAY BOOK



EMINENCE
BY MORRIS WEST, HARVILL, £15.99

PAPAL ELECTIONS are notoriously difficult to predict. The present incumbent, John Paul II, was not mentioned on any pundit's betting slip before he emerged in a puff of white smoke from the Sistine Chapel in 1978 as the first non-Italian to preside at God's business address on earth in 455 years, the first ever Slav to sit on St Peter's throne and the youngest holder of the office in 130 years.

One long-time observer of the Catholic Church could, however, claim with some justification to have seen him coming. Morris West had published in 1963 in *The Shoes Of The Fisherman*, the story of the emergence of an eastern Europe Pope to turn the world's biggest

multinational on its head. The novel was, it was later revealed, on Karol Wojtyla's bookshelves in Krakow before he left for the historic conclave in 1978 or so cardinals who have the task of electing the Bishop of Rome.

Twenty years on John Paul is clearly ailing, suffering, it is said, from Parkinson's Disease, immobile, unsmiling and disappointed that the revolution behind the Iron Curtain, which he did so much to foment in Poland, has failed to bring about the spiritual reawakening of Europe which he anticipated. And speculation is rife about who will succeed him and what that will mean for an embattled and divided Catholic Church.

So Morris West had judged the moment right to return to his crystal ball. *Eminence* adds little to *The Shoes Of The Fisherman* was published three decades ago when West was at the height of his popularity. It was later made into a film with Anthony Quinn. West had another bite at this particular cherry in 1990 with *Lazarus*, the tale of a hard-line traditionalist pope, with overtones of John Paul II, who recovers from a near-death experience a changed man and sets about a reformist agenda for restoring the church to its former esteem in the hearts of the faithful.

In terms of the author's worrying analysis of the state of Catholicism, *Eminence* adds little to *Lazarus*. Yet it is a message that bears repeating: West's feeling for the human cost of outmoded policies remains acute and contemporary as, for instance, when Rossini describes his hardest moment as a priest as holding a baby over the baptismal font and knowing that he will never be able to do that for his own flesh and blood.

Yet, with West now in his eighties, there are occasional hints that he may be stuck in an earlier age. The activities and style of the many journalists who play pivotal roles in the unravelling of the narrative is the least convincing aspect of *Eminence*. Their intensely personal but oddly stilted reports belong to *The Daily Telegraph* of the 1960s and bear little resemblance to anything that would appear in newspapers today.

It is, though, a minor complaint. Morris West remains the doyen of the many writers who have tried through journalism and fiction to double-guess and influence the conclave of cardinals, one of the most secretive but influential group of electors in the world. In the realm of fiction, Baron Corvo in *Hadrion VII* and ex-priest Peter de Rosa in *Pope Patrick* pale into insignificance alongside West, sacrificing authenticity for cheap humour.

Intellectual persuades the more traditionalist amongst his colleagues, currently busily denigrating him in private, to vote for him.

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West's novel 'The Shoes of the Fisherman' anticipated the election of the present Pope

What is remarkable is the apparently undiminished appeal for writers of the papal election. The church is in steep decline in the West in terms of numbers, vocations and influence. Yet we are fascinated with this medieval process to elect a Pope whom most of us will ignore.

Perhaps it is the power, or the secrecy of that heady mix of religion and politics. Perhaps too it is a result of the exclusion in our democratic era of the 1 billion Catholics around the globe from any vote for their leader. At least through books they can have their say and feel a part of the process. And perhaps too it is a tribute to the extraordinary charisma and impact of John Paul II himself. Though aged and unwell, he continues to make news and therefore give the issue of his successor a broader resonance in an otherwise secular age.

The author's 'The She-Pope' is published by Heinemann.

PETER STANFORD

The international best-selling author of *The Empty Raincoat* argues for a dramatic change in our personal and business values in his latest book



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Director

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TUESDAY POEM

ON NOT BEING A NATURE POET BY CAROLE SATYAMURTI

Picking up a small, white feather
I note its symmetry, each tiny rib
knowing its proper measure.

I hold it in my palm, and speculate
how many I would have to balance there
before I'd feel the weight.

I see its consummate design, spare
curve like a careful hand, repelling water,
nurturing warm air.

Stroking along its spine, I like to sense
the finger-numbing softness near the root
change to resilience.

But it doesn't move me; I can't say
I love it. As I've written this, the wind
has carried it away.

This is our final selection from Carole Satyamurti's new 'Selected Poems' (Oxford, £9.99)

Michael Nightingale of Cromarty

MICHAEL NIGHTINGALE was not a man to melt into any crowd: his tall, angular figure with flowing beard and hand-me-down suits made him stand out in the merchant banks and boardrooms where he spent much of his career. He appeared more at home feeding hay to his Sussex cows early on a winter's morning, or clambering around church roofs, or leading objectors at public inquiries. Indeed his true bent was as an antiquary and conservationist, but he added financial and negotiating skills to a mastery of legal and historical minutiae which made him a formidable protagonist in the countless campaigns he led to preserve the landscape, woodlands and churches of the North Downs in Kent, where he lived for most of his life. His impact on the landscape and on attitudes to conservation will be his most lasting memorial.

His unfashionable views and unconventional approach to problems were no doubt inspired by his Fabian parents, Victor Nightingale, a City stockbroker, and Bathsheba Bulay (whose family had fled Lithuania in 1888). His mother's death and father's prompt remarriage impelled the 16-year-old Michael to set up a separate establishment in a cottage up the village street from the family home at Wormshill – his precociously independent and intransigent were already well-established traits.

Michael was educated at Winchester, where he organised archaeological digs, and went on to Wye College to study agriculture, following a course that was more antiquarian than agrarian, and then on to Magdalen College, Oxford.

In 1951 he organised an exhibition of "Treasures from Kent Churches" at Canterbury, but his father, concerned that he should be able to make a more profitable living, arranged a job for him as assistant to the investment manager of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Although he spent much of his two years in this post completing his thesis on Roman field systems, the position set him on a course spanning different careers which seem a world apart in an age of ever greater specialisation.

An appointment in his mid twenties as an assistant and speech writer to the Principal of London University was precipitately ended at one o'clock in the morning because he wrote a speech which advocated that the university should cease to redevelop the squares of Bloomsbury and treat them in the manner of Oxfbridge quads. But his sacking did not stop him from continuing to carry the Chancellor's mace as the university's Esquire Bedell for over

40 years (even though he had only acquired the office because he fitted into the silken breeches that went with it) or becoming in 1954, the university's first ever investment manager (the had discovered its considerable assets were merely held on deposit).

He was appointed in the same year Secretary of the Museums Association and editor of the *Museums Journal*, in which he was assisted by Hilary Jones whom he married in 1956. As Secretary he pioneered the Regional Museum Service to give expert advice and assistance to small regional museums and persuaded the Treasury to grant aid the Waller Art Gallery's purchase of Rubens' *Holy Family*, thus opening a new era in which government money could be sought by provincial museums.

Appointed OBE for his services to museums in 1960 at the age of 32, he might have had a promising career in the museum world but, with three small children to support, he turned his attention back to the City, joining friends to form a merchant bank, J.F. Thomasson & Co, which quickly prospered before merging with Charterhouse Jephcott in 1965.

He was never happy on a committee unless he was chairman. If there was not an organisation designed to achieve his purposes he would form one

Being a director of a large bank was not to his liking and after a few years he saw the opportunity of rescuing a former Dutch East Indies plantations company following the nationalisation of its estates. Cutting as striking a figure in Jakarta or on a Javanese tea estate as he did in the City, he relished the protracted negotiations for compensation and the company's role, following a merger, as the principal maker of hand tools (the Chillingdon Crocodile brand) throughout much of the Third World. But as always his interests extended beyond the purely commercial – great efforts would be expended on the building of a new

Bridge Trust in the Medway Towns – the largest conurbation without a university. The result was the Bridge Wardens' College, appropriately established in the wonderful setting of the Royal Dockyard buildings at Chatham.

As a Warden of the trust, he also played a leading role in the complex negotiations to finance and build the new tunnel under the River Medway, but of equal importance in his scale of values was his organising what was probably the first service in the Bridge Chapel since the Reformation and ensuring that the resulting Latin Requiem Mass on All Souls Day should become an integral part of the trust's annual calendar.



Nightingale will be more generally remembered for his role as a conservationist; his sphere of action was *resolutely local* but the effects often had much wider repercussions. With no interest in politics he nevertheless persevered as a local councillor from 1961 until his death (including spells as leader and mayor) in order to use his position on successive planning committees to fight against the destruction of houses and medieval barns (especially in the 1960s when demolition was the rage of the day) and for tighter planning laws in the countryside, particularly the preservation of coppice woodland and hedgerows.

He was the bugbear of hedge grubbers and tree fellers not least because his council was the first to have a *farmer imprisoned for breaking Tree Preservation Orders*.

Although he often preferred to be a fixer behind the scenes, his absolute faith in the rightness of his cause frequently led him to break committee ranks. When causes appeared lost to others he had an unerring ability to find a further line of appeal or legal remedy.

His involvement in the restoration of churches and church monuments was the greatest pleasure of his life. As a longstanding member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and

Chairman of the Churches Committee of the Kent Archaeological Society (which he sometimes treated as his personal field), he had a knowledge and often close involvement with most of the medieval churches in Kent. This often involved far more than advice and financial support. In order to restore the little church of Bicknor on the North Downs, he persuaded a local stonemason to help him reopen a disused chalk quarry and they spent weekends together hand-sawing chalk blocks in his barn. He had an empathy with craftsmen, often persuading them to work for little or nothing but in turn helping them in their careers.

(The stonemason at Bicknor went on to lead major restoration programmes as head stone-mason at St Paul's Cathedral and then Clerk of Works at Magdalen College).

Typically, his passionate commitment to the fabric of churches and his belief that they should remain as functioning churches regardless of dwindling congregations or clergy (whom one sensed he considered as somewhat superfluous) made him the bane of church authorities. Whenever Kent churches were threatened with closure or the sale of their treasures in the name of rationalisation, he would be found giving advice on how to frustrate it; few could equal his knowledge of the mechanics of appeals to the Privy Council or the Court of Arches. Gradually, over the years, his views which had been those of a lonely protestant began to be caught up with by mainstream conservationist orthodoxy.

At the very end of his life, his house full of tottering piles of papers recording the countless battles fought by petition and correspondence (whole files could be devoted to a constituent's boundary dispute or driving offence), he was still bullying friends and charities to raise a substantial sum for another unfashionable cause, the conservation of the important medieval archives of Winchester College.

In 1997, already seriously ill, he had successfully raised Lottery and other funds to save the Brook Museum, when he found that Wye College was proposing to sell this important medieval barn and cost, housing a collection of early agricultural machinery and implements. It was Michael Nightingale himself who had, more than 50 years earlier, saved the collection from destruction and found it its current home.

Such continuity was typical: as a 16-year-old he had opened a savings account with 10 shillings for the restoration of Wormshill's bells. Fifty years later he completed the full peal of six bells, one original, five rescued from abandoned churches. They will ring for him on Friday.

EDMUND GATTON

Michael David Nightingale, banker, conservationist and antiquary; born London 6 December 1927; Esquire Bedell, London University 1953-64; Secretary, Museums Association 1954-60; FSA 1956; OBE 1960; chairman, Anglo-Indonesian Chillingdon Corporation 1971-89; chairman, Anglo-Eastern Plantations 1985-90; married 1951 Antonia Morland (marriage dissolved 1956), 1956 Hilary Jones (two sons, three daughters); died Wormshill, Kent 2 September 1998.

Harry Lunn

HARRY LUNN was an extraordinary dealer in extraordinary photographs. He, more than anyone, created the modern market in fine photography.

In 1971, when Lunn began selling photographs, a print of the famous *Moorrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* by Ansel Adams fetched \$150. At the spring auctions in New York this year a 16x20 inch print sold for \$20,700. However, Lunn did more than secure a price rise for *Moorrise*. Of course, he sold great things to major museums in Paris, New York and London – the Canon Photography Gallery at the V&A exhibits some of the great photographs that passed through his hands. He acted as consultant to top corporate collections like the Gilman Paper Company, and was close to legends such as Robert Mapplethorpe and the collector Sam Wagstaff.

He supported the smaller galleries and scarcely known individuals too, and he spread the taste for collecting photography far beyond the walls of the wealthy. More than that, Harry Lunn, with his finely domed head, Lincoln beard, booming voice, genuine bonhomie and great relish for life, personified the international photographic community that grew up around him. He

networked long before the word was invented, but he patiently cultivated friendships and loyalties as well as the market. He was a great salesman with a great eye, but also a great friend.

Lunn was born in Detroit, majored in Economics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, edited the student newspaper and was recruited in the Cold War years by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). This explained the dash of Henry Lime about him. He said he loved the life of the spy. He worked with the international wing of the National Students Association until an article in *Ramparts* magazine in 1967 exposed it as a CIA front.

He could have taken a CIA design but as he later told his friend Bill Turnage, he missed espionage, with its backstabbing, treachery and betrayal. Lunn joked that he moved into the civilian sphere which he thought most resembled his former profession, setting up as an art dealer in 1968. He dealt in prints and drawings in Washington DC, but a decisive moment occurred when he happened to see Ansel Adams' *Moorrise* – upside down, apparently – at the Manhattan office of a publisher of portfolios of etchings and photographs.

Lunn held his first Adams show in 1971, and was instrumental in raising America's great landscape photographer to a new level of both financial security and reputation. He treated Adams with respect and panache – the limousine from the airport, the suite at the good hotel. Lunn could be aggressive and controversial but Adams described him, perceptively, as "a lion". The Washington photographer Alan Janus recalls:

In person Harry could be irascible, courtly, funny as hell, and terrifying as all get out. "Harry stories" circulated widely in the days when he had a gallery in DC. Seeing a photographer that he despised walk into the gallery on 7th Street, Harry stopped him dead in his tracks by pointing at him from his god-like perch: "WHAT are you doing here? And tellin' an acquaintance of mine, by way of compliment – "Steve, I could do a lot with your work – if you were dead . . ." But I also remember a long leisurely lunch in the backyard of his old P Street Gallery, where he held forth in high humour, telling amazing stories. And, of course, going through the boxes and bins of his treasures was an education for a generation of Washington photographers and collectors – he would glower at us, and wonder when we were going to buy something, but the boxes kept coming.

Lunn's inventory was extraordinarily extensive – his holdings by photographers.

Philippe Garner of Sotheby's doubts whether Lunn missed any of his sales between 1972 and this Spring. On one occasion, a bidder wavering over an important Julia Margaret Cameron album found himself admiring: "Have courage!" as Lunn virtually yanked the hesitant arm upwards for the bid which beat the reserve. I always sat next to him in the front row at the London auctions, hearing from his commentary what was really happening in the saleroom, and enjoying the ferociously filthy looks he threw at competitive bidders. A few months ago Lunn led the applause when a new world record price for a *carte de visite* photograph was set at Christie's in South Kensington.

Fellow dealer Frish Brandt remarked that Harry was the one who always knew how to honour the moment. Although close friends knew that he always had a beast on his back, Harry Lunn was like a cheery blaze in the hearth – which has suddenly, unaccountably, been extinguished.

MARK HAWORTH-BOOTH

Harry Hyatt Lunn Jr, photographic art dealer; born Detroit 29 April 1933; married 1963 Myriam Dosseur (one son, two daughters); died Paris 21 August 1998.



TOMMY SMITH was one of the Australian racing industry's best known figures.

From humble origins, he reached the pinnacle of his profession as a trainer, astounding people along the way with a celebrated eye for a horse. While some of the champions he trained from his Sydney base would have won nothing on looks alone, they took Smith into the record books and into racing history.

Any sportsman who compares themselves to the legendary cricketer Sir Don Bradman – "I've known some great trainers and I've beaten them all", Smith said. "I happen to be like Don Bradman, a bit better than

the rest" – would usually be laughed out of their profession. But Smith produced the statistics to go, at least, some way towards backing up his claim. Securing 33 consecutive training championships in Sydney from 1962/63 to 1984/85 is such proof. So is the number-crunching fact that he trained more than 7,000 winners during his extensive career; 279 of them at Group 1 level. Anyone who can train that many winners of races at the highest level compares favourably to the best ever racehorses.

Smith's big wins included two in Australia's greatest race, the Melbourne Cup, with Topasia in 1965 and

Just A Dash in 1981. In between he came close to landing a third Melbourne Cup when his outstanding horse Kingston Town was beaten in a photo-finish by Gunner's Lane in 1982.

Aside from the Melbourne Cup, Smith won every major race in the Australia calendar, including four Caulfield Cups, nine AJC Derbys, five Victoria Derbys, seven WS Cox Plates, three Australian Derbys, seven AJC Metropolitans, nine Rosehill Guineas, and five Golden Slippers.

Not bad for one of five children

who grew up in New South Wales during the harsh times of the Great Depression. Smith himself left

school at 13, jumping out of a classroom window, never to return, when he decided he could not tolerate even one more clip around the ear from schoolteachers. Soon after he attempted a career as a jockey, which proved to be as unmemorable as his training achievements are astonishing. The only legacies of his time as a jockey were a solitary winner and a limp that never left him after a schooling accident.

Then came the switch to training which began with just one horse, Bragger, who took nearly two years to make it to the racetrack, so wild was his character, but who somehow managed to win 13 times for Smith.

The first quality horse he trained was the 1949 AJC Derby winner Playboy, followed by one of his real champions, Tulloch, a moderate-looking, cheaply bought animal who turned out to be an outstanding racehorse, despite being sidelined for nearly two years with a serious illness. Tulloch even managed to beat the track record of Randwick of the renowned Phar Lap, regarded as Australia's greatest racehorse, perhaps even an equine Don Bradman. Kingston Town also failed to win many admirers on looks when sold as a yearling, but he was also an outstanding success for Smith. He became the first Australian horse to win

over Aus\$1,000,000 in prize money. Smith became a man of considerable wealth through his racehorse training empire, achieving his ambition of owning a Rolls Royce. But his empire nearly collapsed after a stock exchange flotation in 1989, and was only rescued when his daughter Gai, also a successful trainer, persuaded the American billionaire John Kluge to back her father.

RICHARD GRIFFITHS

Thomas James Smith, racehorse trainer; born Goolgooli, New South Wales 3 September 1918; married (one daughter); died Sydney 2 September 1998.

Tommy Smith

Sept 10 1998

lary

Lal Waterson

THE LUDICROUSNESS of the division between traditional singing and contemporary singing and song-writing that has bewitched the English folksong revival over the past 50 years was never better demonstrated than in the career of Lal Waterson. As Martin Carthy, her brother-in-law, puts it:

It was impossible to separate her singing from her song-writing. She used all the techniques of traditional song-making in her own lyrics and she never sounded like a revival singer. All the rest of us did. She was tremendously inventive and different from her brother Miles and her sister Norma as it was possible to be. She and they were and are the very best to be heard today.

Coming from the acknowledged doyen of the English folk music revival, that is high praise indeed, and while his marriage to Lal's sister might be thought to colour his judgement, there are few of his peers who would dispute it.

I first met Lal, Mike, Norma and their second cousin John Harrison, when I was compering a benefit concert in St Albans in the early Sixties. They had not yet shaken off their roots in the skiffle movement, and accompanied their songs with a guitar; yet there was an integrity and an authenticity that distinguished them from many of their better-known colleagues in the second wave of the revival (the first wave being that led by Ewan MacColl and A.L. Lloyd).

The film producer Bill Leader had picked up what he billed as "The Waterson Family" for a "New Voices" sampler he was putting together for Topic Records, and in the liner notes for that album Lloyd himself wrote:

Britain's leading folk clubs, Folk Union One, at the largest venue they could find in the city, the old Bluebell pub.

They were never keen on the touring that soon became necessary, Lal less so than the rest. As Carthy recalls: "She was a very private person. She didn't enjoy singing on stage, or in any public event, for that matter." When in 1966 Norma went abroad to work in a tropical radio station in the unlikely role as a late-night DJ, and Harrison moved to London, they stopped performing for a while. Six years later they returned to public platforms, for a short time with Bernie Vickers, and ultimately with Martin Carthy.

The group last toured in 1988, but had been performing without Lal for some time. She had been plagued with ill health, and had to withdraw from a US tour in 1991, after which she was replaced by Jill Pidd, who was joined on their final US tour by Lal's niece Eliza, Norma and Martin's daughter; today a Brit Award-nominated star in her own right.

However, in the previous two decades Lal and her brother had both begun writing songs, at first unaware of what the other was doing, but then coming together

Her life and the disregarded tradition on which she based her work, were political statements of great power



Waterson with her son, Oliver Knight, with whom she worked

triumphantly in May 1972 for what is probably the seminal British folk rock album of all time, *Bright Phoenix* (on Bill Leader's Trailer label). The two singers, known till then predominantly for their unaccompanied singing of traditional lyrics and ballads, blazed forth to the accompaniment of electric alumnus like the great Fairport Convention electric guitar virtuoso, Richard Thompson.

Lal contributed six songs, ranging from the drunken reminiscence of "Red Wine and Promises" to the devastating picture of industrial poverty in "Never The Same". Perhaps her most remarkable was "The Scarecrow", a joint composition with Carthy (later recorded by June Tabor *Abstractions*) with its chorus: "Ah, but you'd lay me down and love me; Ah, but you'd lay me down and love me, if you could. For you're only a bag of rags in an

overall/ That the wind sways so the crows fly away/ And the corn can grow tall." Carthy's "I'm the Leader of the Rubber Band", was licensed to RCA as a single, and there was talk of a *Top of the Pops* appearance, but the group refused to go on the show. *Bright Phoenix* is out of print, but two tracks (one, "The Magical Mum", another composition by Lal and Mike) reappeared recently on Castle Communications' reworking of the Electric Muse folk-rock compilation.

Lal also recorded with her sister and daughter Maria on Topic's *A True-Hearted Girl*, 1977, which included her solo performance of "The Welcome Sailor". She joined the Rotherham-based No Master's Voice song-writing collective (forced by HMV to drop the last word in their name), for whom she joined with her son Oliver Knight, in recording *Once in a Blue Moon*, an album in many ways as

significant as *Bright Phoenix*.

She was also involved in a television project *Hard Cash*, for the BBC, who took flight at its condemnation of mid-1980s Thatcherism, and refused to show it. Her song, "Hilda's Cabinet Band", was the most outwardly political of her material, though her life and the disregarded tradition upon which she based her work was a political statement of great power.

In the last year of her life she was working with her son Oliver, a highly talented electric guitarist and recording engineer. Their follow-up album has not progressed past the rough mix stage.

KARL DALLAS

Elaine "Lal" Waterson, born Hull 15 February 1943; married 1968 George Knight (one son, one daughter); died Robin Hood's Bay, North Yorkshire 4 September 1998.



Fans have been turned into 'customers'

seater stadia have restricted the worst excesses of violence and made identifying hooligans easier. However, they have had another less obvious disciplinary effect which is implied in the concept of the customer. The customer refers to families (rather than single young males) and, in particular, to affluent, respectable families located in the core of Britain's divided, two-thirds, one-third society.

The Thatcherite reforms have primarily involved the application of two related principles to British life, namely the free market and the strong state. In the face of the collapse of the Keynesian post-war consensus, Thatcher sought, on the one hand, to deregulate the economy, allowing private businesses to flourish away from the interference of the state. On the other hand, in order to provide the legal regulatory framework of the free market and to defend the market from those groups who threatened its operation (such as unions, terrorists and increasingly the growing unemployed underclass), she implemented strong statist measures in the forms of new laws and increased police powers.

The transformation of English football in the 1990s has involved a similar application of free-market and strong state principles. Indeed, it stands out as a paradigmatic example of a moribund Keynesian industry rejuvenated by the hard-headed application of neo-liberal principles. By the mid-1990s, with the disasters at Bradford and Heysel and, later, at Hillsborough, it became

obvious that the Keynesian organisation of football was no longer tenable. From the mid-1980s, there were demands that football be deregulated in line with other industries so that the most successful clubs were free to maximise their incomes while weaker, "unviable" clubs were no longer protected from market forces. The establishment of the Premier League in 1991 was the realisation of this free-market principle in which the biggest clubs monopolised the huge television contracts they negotiated. In addition, the development of all-seater stadia turned fans into "customers" who paid more for the better services they received while improving gate receipts.

This free-market idea of the customer has had serious disciplinary implications. All-

obligations of the present moves towards a European Superleague, the free-market transformation of football has become a crucial staging-post for a much more radical development of the game in Europe. The Thatcherite reforms of football have taken the sport in a pan-European direction which Thatcher herself rejected. Increasingly, the biggest clubs across Europe are becoming symbols for the cities and regions in which they are situated, denoting their international status and attracting global capital there. European football is becoming a symbolic arena in which the growing cultural and economic competition between cities and regions in the New Europe is expressed.

Anthony King is the author of *The End of the Terraces: the transformation of English football in the 1990s* (Leicester University Press, £25)

GAZETTE

'A campaign against Iraq for the benefit of Iran'

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE
8 SEPTEMBER 1988

The Iraqi ambassador to London, Mohammed al-Mashat, asked to talk to 'The Independent' on events in northern Iraq. These are extracts from John Bullock's interview

some neutral international commission which goes to northern Iraq and finds that chemical weapons were, in fact, used, what would you do then? Would you resign?

A: No. I would not resign my post.

Q: Have you checked with your government that everything you are saying is true?

A: That's right. My government, even before me, denies this officially. We will not accept any meddling in our internal affairs. Everybody is suddenly concerned about the supposed plight of the Kurds.

Q: Not suddenly, a long time. Six weeks the campaign has been running now.

A: Well, listen: I did not say that we haven't followed up the Iraqi army and the Kurdish fighters who are proud of their accomplishment in Iraq which you do not want to recognise, for various ulterior motives you and other people who are taking up this campaign.

Q: Was it Iraqi planes which bombed Halabja last June?

A: Halabja was bombed by Iranians and they used chemical weapons.

Q: I have another report, published last night by an independent British organisation, which said it was Iraq which dropped not half a mile away.

A: Is it part of the conspiracy?

A: No, but what I... I don't know. It could be part of the conspiracy. You can bring anybody who can talk against Iraq. What credibility does a man like that have?

Q: A lot.

A: You are mass media, you can bring riff raff, people taught to talk the way you...

Q: You air them on your mass media as if this is the whole truth. These are absolute lies.

Q: Ambassador, if there is

we are the same as you: we will follow up and fight terrorism in the same way you fight terrorism, and in the same way you don't permit any people to interfere, or ask about your measures against terrorism.

We're the same way, and we are proud of it.

From the Foreign News pages of *The Independent*, Thursday 8 September 1988

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

HELM: On 25 August, to Bernard and Nicky (née Hindmarsh), a son Joseph William (b. 1998), brother to Benjamin and Thomas.

DEATHS

FISH: (Sidney) Francis, Professor Emeritus of Dentistry at the Royal London Hospital. Peacefully in Southmead Hospital, Bristol on 4 September after a short illness. Beloved father of Victoria and Alison, grandfather of Robert and Thomas, Lizzie and James. Cremation at Heycombe Crematorium near Bath on Thursday 10 September at 11.30am. In view of the circumstances, it will be held at Dyrham Church, Wiltshire at a date to be announced, where the ashes will be buried with those of his adored wife, Scottish compositions for RNLI and London Hospital Benevolent Fund c/o Roy Freddie, Funeral Directors 0177 255 2234.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at 25.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visit Ballater and Tarland, Aberdeenshire, and call at Douneside House and Alastream House (properties of The MacRoberts Trusts), near Tarland.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am; band provided by the Irish Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Jeannette Altwegg (Mrs M. Witz), Olympic skater, 58; Mr Frankie Avalon, singer, 58; Sir Hugh Bennett, High Court judge, 58; Sir John D.K. Brown, former chairman, McLeod Russell plc, 58; Mr James Daly, High Commissioner to Mauritius, 58; Mr Ian Davison MP, 48; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 64; Miss Anne Diamond, television presenter, 44; Mr Michael Frayn, writer and playwright, 65; Mr Anthony Froggatt, company director, 72; Miss Judith Hama, television writer and presenter, 56; Mr Fred Jarvis, former general secretary, National Union of Teachers, 74; Mr Stefan Johansson, motor racing driver, 42; Sir Denis Lasdun CH, architect, 84; Lord Macfadgen, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 53; The Marquess of Lothian, former Conservative minister, 76; Mr Geoff Miller, cricketer, 46; Vice Admiral Sir Roy Newman, former Flag Officer Plymouth and Commander Central Sub Area East Atlantic, 62; Mr Jack Rosenthal, playwright, 57; M. Yves St Martin jockey, 57; Sir Harry Secombe, comedian and singer, 77; Professor Ernst Sondheimer, mathematician, 73; Colonel James Stirling of Garden, Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Fife, 68; Mr Alfred A. Wood, architect and conservationist, 72.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Richard I, King (Coeur de Lion), 1157; Ludovico Ariosto, poet, 1474; Louis II de Bourbon, fourth Prince de Condé, soldier, 1621; August Wilhelm von Schlegel, poet and writer, 1767; William Collins, landscape painter, 1788; Eduard Friedrich Mörike, poet, 1804; Ernst Naumann, composer

and writer on music, 1827; Joseph-Etienne Frédéric Mistral, poet, 1830; Antonín Dvořák, composer, 1841; Viktor Meyer, chemist, 1848; William Wymark Jacobs, short-story writer, 1863; Alfred Jarry, playwright and poet, 1873; Siegfried Lorraine Sasse, poet and critic, 1886; Howard Dietz (Dick Howard), lyricist, 1896; Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd, politician, 1901; Jean-Louis Barrault, actor, director and theatre manager, 1910; Peter Richard Henry Sellers, actor and comedian, 1925.

Deaths: Amy Robart, wife of the Earl of Leicestershire, found mysteriously dead of a broken neck, 1560; Carlo Gesualdo, Prince of Venosa, Neapolitan composer, 1613; François Quarles, poet, 1644; Francisco Gomez de Quevedo y Villegas, poet and satirist, 1645; Ann Lee, Shaker leader, 1784; William James Müller, landscape and figure painter, 1845; George Bradshaw, printer and publisher of railway guides, 1853; Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholz, physicist, 1894; Léon-Joseph-Placide Bonnat, painter, 1922; Feisal I, King of Iraq, 1933; Richard Strauss, composer, 1949; André Derain, painter, 1954; Sir Leonard George Holden Huxley, physicist, 1988.

On this day: the Turkish Siege of Malta ended, 1565; New Amsterdam in North America was surrendered by the Dutch to the English and renamed New York, 1664; Canada, Montreal surrendered to the British troops, 1760; William IV was crowned King of Great Britain, 1831; Johannesburg, South Africa, was founded, 1886; in the US, a tornado and tidal wave caused widespread havoc, with the loss of over 6,000 lives near Galveston, Texas, 1900; Germany was admitted to

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Picturing Women (2); Van Dyck, Lady Elizabeth Thynne and Dorothy Viscountess Andover", 1pm; Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Art Nouveau", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Colin Cruise, "Brotherhoods and Girlhoods: Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood", 1pm. British Museum: George Hart, "The autobiography of Phisherman: career and honours in the pyramid age", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Juliet Hacking, "Thank Heaven for Little Girls: the photography of Lewis Car-

WHAT LINKS Enid Blyton and Martin Amis? Some say that she had a surer grasp of contemporary idiom. He certainly took her lead. In 1951, in the chaste *Big Noddy Book*, the eponymous hero "had a good little hoot on his car. When he pressed it it said 'Pip Pip' and sometimes 'Poop Poop', and

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

parp, n, vb

sometimes 'Purp-Purp'.

Two decades on, Amis's narrator, in the preface to *The Frolics of Poppy*, says that "to break her reveries I

parped the horn". No other word quite fits the bill. "Hoot" sounds frivolous and "to sound the horn" suggests a leisurely era of warning off stray sheep, not the urgencies of contemporary road-rage, for which the blast of "parp" is ideal – especially with Noddy's new success on American television.

All you know about kids is wrong

Children are formed by peers, not parents, claims Judith Harris, entirely at odds with mainstream thinking. By Angela Neustatter

As Judith Rich Harris waited for the publication of her book, *The Nurture Assumption*, in New York last week, she anticipated that some of the elders in the field of psychology are going to go out of their way to try and savage this.

On the face of it, this is grandiosity. Harris's career has been spent writing textbooks and there's not a PhD to her name – added to which she is a grandmother with a seriously debilitating illness working and living far from New York's highbrow life in New Jersey. It's not exactly the usual profile of an author who whips up serious intellectual storms. What on earth can psychologists have to fear from her?

But the core question in her book is one that overturns the cornerstone of current child development theory. Harris asks: Do parents matter? Her stated purpose is to "dissuade you of the notion that a child's personality is shaped or modified by the parents".

So far Harris has received only accolades for her work which began as an article outlining the theory that the defining influence on children comes from their peers. It was published by the prestigious and extremely choosy US journal *Psychological Review* and went on to win the American Psychological Association's prize.

Praise and comments ahead of publication from influential social scientists indicated how seriously Harris's ideas were being taken. Supporters included Steven Pinker, the professor of psychology and director of the center for cognitive neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who said: "The most promising hypotheses, I suspect, will come from recognising that childhood is a jungle and that the first problem children face is how to hold their own among siblings and peers."

But whatever they may be saying the other side of the Atlantic, many child development experts over here share the view of Sebastian Kramer, a consultant psychiatrist at London's Tavistock Centre, who says: "Harris has some very interesting ideas but she seems to have overlooked the massive literature showing the absolute importance of what goes on between parents and their young before the children are able to go out and relate to peers."

So what led Harris to come up with her theory? Her epiphany came, she says, while reading a paper on juvenile delinquency that suggested that teenagers whose rebellion takes the form of acting "grown up" – smoking, drinking, stealing cars to drive, insisting on staying out late – did so because they wanted mature status. But in a moment of clarity it seemed to Harris that the author had got it all wrong.

What adolescents were trying to do was contrast themselves with adults, not emulate them. She says: "From that grew the idea that if adolescents didn't want to be like adults, they wanted to be like other adolescents. Children were identifying and learning from other children. It was as if a light had gone on in the sky. In a minute or two I had the germ of a theory and in 10 minutes I had enough of it to see that it was important."

Harris pulls together a wealth of studies – notably several studies of twins showing that parental input makes very little difference – which appear to demonstrate that it is the genetic inheritance of children that



In 'The Nurture Assumption', Judith Harris suggests that peers, not parents, are the defining influence on children.

John Voos

makes them similar to parents, even when it appears to be environment.

In Robert Plomin's seven-year Colorado Adoption Project a group of 245 adopted children were given a variety of personality and intelligence tests throughout their childhood, and similar tests were given to the adoptive parents. These were replicated with a matched control group where the children were with biological parents.

In this last group a number of personality and behavioural similarities were picked up between parents and children, but absolutely none of significance between the adopted children and their parents, even though they had been nurtured from a very young age by these adoptive mothers and fathers. In other words, the Colorado study concluded that it was the genes that created the similarities in the natural families and that the environment counted for virtually nothing.

Even when it seems very clear that parental behaviour has been a formative influence, it may simply be genes, Harris says. She takes as her example nice parents who manifest this by being cuddly and kind with their children who in turn are assumed to be nice because of their nurture. In fact they may simply be nice children because of the parental gene.

Parents also react to the genetic baggage children bring into the world, Harris argues, so they will treat a highly-strung demanding child one way and a benign and rewarding child another, and children will respond to what is done to them. But the parents are reacting to who the child is, not shaping its personality.

She then asks us to look at studies where very young children have grouped themselves together and behaved in a way their parents did not want and other studies where children, from the moment they meet, take their cues from each other. She cites a large study comparing the behaviour of poor inner-city kids from intact families to the behaviour of those living only with their mother and found that the loss of the father did not seem to be significant and that the peer group was the decisive factor in whether they were anti-social or not.

In saying all this, Harris is joining "a huge Western shift to deny how utterly fundamental early bonding and nurture are", says Adam Jukes, a psychotherapist and a member of the steering committee of the International Attachment Network set up to bring us back to the importance of attachment theories of the kind John Bowlby so influentially introduced in the Fifties.

Is Harris saying, he asks, that all those experts who concluded that the boys who murdered James Bulger had been influenced by their home lives were wrong? Is he wrong when he sees clear links between the pathology of the violent men he works with and what happened to them in their very early years at the hands of their parents? And, Sebastian Kramer adds, are all those professionals working with children from teachers and play leaders to psychologists and psychiatrists wrong when they talk of the parental influence they see so clearly acted out in children?

And what of the massive research that shows children are far more likely to divorce if their parents do, or to abuse if they have been abused – is Harris suggesting these are genetic personality traits?

However, Kramer agrees that Harris is correct to stress the importance of peers in our children's lives – as Professor William A Cosaro, a pioneer in the ethnography of early childhood at Indiana University, says: "Kids teach each other how to be social." And he adds:

"Children go on being more and more influenced by the peers they mix with. But the point is that their ability to be able to relate to peers is a direct result of how secure and safe they are made to feel through very early nurture."

That beginning in the home provides a template for how the child goes on to deal with the world whether in a positive or negative way. Harris appears to simply ignore the first social relationship which is not with other children but with a parent in the first year. Reading what she has to say it is as though childhood starts at two and a half."

Charlie Lewis, who leads major studies on children and families at Lancaster University, is interested by how Harris has brought together behavioural genetics and a new

slant on the social influences, but he is "cynical" about how new her peer group theory really sounds.

"Sociologists of childhood have been plugging away at the influence of peer group since the Twenties, for example Ylloomsky, who looked at the gang as an entity, and the British critical criminologists of the Sixties and Seventies, such as Stan Cohen and Jock Young," he says.

"The real flaw is that Harris has wiped on the complexity of what influences and moulds children, and I imagine she has done this in order to create a straightforward and radical thesis because that's what gets published and sells."

What Harris has identified here, in the view of Julia Vellacott, a psychotherapist who has written on the relationship between mother and child, is the importance for children of differentiating themselves from their parents: "There is this eternal redefining by the younger generation of itself, and, in psychoanalytic terms, it's anti-insecurities, a turning away from parents to whom you were once so desperately bound and still may be in the unconscious. But to say that a child's personality is in

no way shaped by parents is absurd. What Harris is doing is offering a way out of the enormous angst and guilt today's parents suffer. But it's not good enough to do it by denying the importance of children's need of early attachment and their on-going need of their parents."

The Nurture Assumption is not likely to be embraced by Tony Blair and his lot, at a time when they are building a Parenting Institution designed to focus parents on the importance of their role. And while the idea of a book that reduces parental guilt may be a good thing, the next stage on, if we accept what Harris says about not being all that important for our children, could be giving up responsibility.

The Nurture Assumption, in which Harris suggests hitherto that it makes no difference whether you spend two hours or 10 with your child, whether they virtually live with a nanny or are sent to boarding school, could lead yet more parents to be irresponsible or more casual about bothering to find time for their kids, and if Harris is wrong – as many believe passionately that she is – those kids will pay the price.

Sex with your sun-dried tomatoes, sir?

Prostitutes plying their trade among the groceries has curtailed the 24-hour opening of a London shop. By Vanessa Thorpe



went on to say: "Some offered it on a plate in return for the goods."

Budgens has quickly reassessed the opening hours of the store, which is situated in Crouch End – a strong candidate for the London suburb name with the best double entendre readily at its disposal.

After only six weeks, the 24-hour shopping experiment was stopped and the store has reverted to a mid-night closing time. It seems it was

in attracting high numbers throughout the night.

"The trouble was, there were just not enough people coming into our store on The Broadway in Crouch End to make it worthwhile," he said. "And it can be a rough area at that time anyway."

Not "rough", surely? The branch is surrounded by ethnic gift shops, bookshops and second-hand pine furniture dealers.

Perhaps Budgens were carried away by the seedy associations of the term "Broadway". The lyric "they say the neon lights are bright on Broadway" was certainly never meant to apply to the N8 postal area. As for "the glitter rubbing off ... When you ain't got enough to eat" Budgens does seem to have seen to that one by simply shutting up shop.

Of course, staff employed to work around the clock in convenience stores and supermarkets all over the country have had to develop a fairly tough attitude to life. They are repeatedly exposed to the seamier side of the seamier side.

Drunks and thieves are the recurrent problems. But Mohamed

agars do, but I just say no to it," said Balfour. "You don't know what people are going to do, or whether they even have drugs with them on the premises."

In Crouch End, predictably, things were more sophisticated, in a North London kind-of-a-way. Let's face it, a prostitute who is prepared to sleep with a man for an aubergine, a focaccia loaf and some sun-dried tomatoes is playing a different sort of game altogether. Needless to say staff at this branch did not catch anyone in flagrante by the flagole.

It must still rate as a relatively risky and public way to pick up a prostitute, though. One would have thought that, compared to the embarrassment of passing through the check-out with a newly-acquired hooker, the time honoured blouses of lone men facing smirking cashiers with comedy items such as haemorrhoid ointment, pale into insignificance.

Perhaps it was the blatant inappropriateness of the venue that provided the thrill. Tom, a painter living in Hampstead thinks so. He regu-

larly works through the night and as a result he sometimes ends up visiting a 24-hour supermarket at around three or four in the morning.

"At that time, which really is the absolute dead of the night, these supermarkets are slightly sexually-charged places," he observes. "You can't help noticing the other people there and wondering: It is the same thing with libraries."

In the end, the hookers of Crouch End were really just getting back to basics and cutting out the middleman. Why waste time with a shopping trolley when you can get your client to do it for you?

The penguins who were memorably discovered selling sex in the Antarctic this February have a set of equally admirable, pared-down principles.

Scientists observing colonies of Adelie penguins living about 800 miles from the South pole noticed that the female birds were slipping away from their partners to visit the nests of unpaired males. After a brief courtship, they mated, and then left with the payment of a valuable rock with which to fortify.

The Embassy club was London's version of Studio 54 - a keyed-up, overheated, gay model of the original. By Kate Mulvey

We made it feel mighty real

Disco is back in the British consciousness. This week sees the release of the film, *The Last Days Of Disco*, starring Chloe Sevigny and Kate Beckinsale, and the film 54, celebrating the decadent shenanigans of the famous New York night-club, is soon to be released. But why does the once maligned decade of "bad taste" hold such lingering appeal, 20 years later? Because no matter what you really think about the Seventies, you can't go to a wedding without hearing Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" or turn on the radio without some disco queen barking out tunes such as "Good Times" to a funky, upbeat tempo.

But maybe, therein lies the answer. Disco may be naff, but it's fun. And in the knowing Nineties when everyone is so damn cool, the simple but positive lyrics have an endearing quality that all of Oasis's moody backdrops and drop dead scowls could never achieve.

At the same time that Liza Minnelli was "getting on down" with Truman Capote in Studio 54, in London there was an even wilder, more dysfunctional club. Smaller, more intimate and far more outrageous in its dress, the Embassy club on Old Bond Street took London by storm when it opened in April 1978. Weird-looking creatures would regularly spend their Saturday night lined up outside the stuffy antiques shops of this respectable area of London's West End, looking like a cast from a Fellini opera and determined to make it past the inscrutable doormen.

But what was it about Studio 54 and the Embassy that made them the magical places they were? Where celebrities were prepared to wait for 45 minutes in a British or New York winter, just to gyrate under the strobe lighting with a bunch of gay boys?

For a start, the Embassy had little to do with straight disco. Travolta may have immortalised the image of the disco in 1976, when he strutted his stuff as Tony Manero in the cult film *Saturday Night Fever*, but unlike Tony's world, where working-class boys went to the local disco for a bit of the action, and the disco-dancing competition was the height of their year, the Embassy was not about boy meets girl, but a place where sexual decadence reigned, underpinned by a homoerotic aesthetic that continued the rituals of the New York gay scene.

But then disco started as an underground gay phenomenon in about 1973 in New York and Steven Hayter, the man behind the Embassy, had earned his disco stripes as a club promoter at the hip Le Jardin night-club, part of the New York gay scene. If anyone knew how to ruin a straight/gay club, he was the man.

Like 54, the Embassy was blatantly bisexual. With its roots in gay culture, it bridged the gap between Tony Manero's local haunt and the gay scene. It was this fusion of flamboyant decadence with the celebrity element, that made the club so special. Instead of spending your Saturday night at a club where the people were a mundane extension of your everyday world with a bit of music thrown in, the Embassy was different. It catered to a cross-section, from transsexuals to European aristos, you were unlikely to see these people again, but once you were inside, everyone was your friend for the night and you were part of a big dysfunctional family.



Liza Minnelli and Bianca Jagger at the Embassy in 1979: 'Going to the Embassy was like being in a Hollywood movie with everyone wanting to be the star'

Richard Young/Rex

I was a 16-year-old schoolgirl at the time, naive and on the eve of womanhood. To me the Embassy club became a fantasy world, where I could be who I wanted and do what I wanted.

Once inside the club, you felt you were part of a privileged élite group of people. Drunk and high on the music, I would dance with girls dressed in the style of the Forties vamp, with wavy veils and off-the-shoulder dresses, or swing around with a gorgeous Italian count. Cocaine spilled over the tables, young men in jock-straps and pillar-box hats danced on the bar, and drag queens simulated sex on the rostrum.

Hayter had established an exciting and addictive pleasure palace, which caught the mood of the times perfectly. The layout and décor of the club had been strategically designed for effortless people-watching. Post-ing took place upstairs in the dance area, where the waiters in their red-and-white satin shorts (a direct copy of 54) danced provocatively on the bar. There was a narrow balcony, dark and secluded enough for sexual favours to be meted out, yet perfectly placed to watch the gyrating

bodies of the disco dancers below. The dance floor itself, with the ubiquitous silver hamper, dry ice and strobe lighting (which made you look as if you were moving in slow motion, heightened, of course, by copious amounts of amyl nitrate), was like a goldfish bowl. The cool people stood around and watched, as the frocks boogied on down. At the end of the night, when the last bars of Sylvester's "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real" played out, the lights would go on and faces, ashen grey from over-indulgence, looked back at you vacantly. The dream was over for another night, and you waited for your next fix.

A rostrum just above the dance floor kept exhibitionists on view, and they would enact simulated love scenes as the DJ shone the spotlight on them. But while the show-offs got their posing fix, the real action was going on downstairs. The long bar at the basement of the club was where the night-club routes would invite pretty young things to drink champagne and snort a few lines.

Couples were known to slip off to the loos to give physical form to their

passion. The male and female lavatories were well known for the debauched scene that could meet an unsuspecting onlooker if they were not prepared.

As at Studio 54, the inner sanctum was a tatty back room, where young girls and VIPs could take their drugs in peace and receive any sexual favours that might be offered.

"Coming to the 'back room'" meant you were either going to get stoned or take part in some depraved act.

My first and last kiss with a woman took place in the famous Embassy back room. Now I look back in amusement, but then it was all part of behaving badly for the fun of it.

Even though sex permeated everything from the disco lyrics to the costumes, this was not a steady pick-up joint. It was a far more bawdy experience, owing more to a Bacchanalian feast or Roman orgy than a few pints down the Pitcher and Piano with a fumbled, drunken shag at the end of the night.

But this was 1978, after all, and England was at the height of moral decadence. Sexual ambiguity and a sort of camp sensibility were an integral part of the Seventies feeling.

Remember glam rock, and Bowie and Jagger with their camp dressing-up and homoerotic behaviour?

This was pre-Aids, and despite a depressing cultural climate with excessive inflation and government corruption, people were still riding on the late-Sixties wave of free sex, and the hippie, anything-goes mentality. In the Seventies, bisexuality was a lifestyle choice and if you were "happening", indiscriminate sex and abandoned drug-taking were just par for the course.

It was just like going to a big party. The atmosphere was wild; everyone dressed up and made an effort. Anthony Price once said that going to the Embassy was like being in a Hollywood movie with everyone wanting to be the star. Friendly it may have been, but everyone wanted to be the king or queen of glam.

"Marilyn", an ex-Embassy waiter who dressed up as his icon, would sit on the stairs of the club (often used as a place for chatting people up or exchanging coke) with his friend Boy George and ask people who was the prettiest. Everyone joined in the game; it was all part of the illusion.

Every celebrity in town would make an appearance at the Embassy. David Bowie, Pete Townsend, Mick Jagger and Marie Helvin were just some of the London glitterati who could be found propping up the bar with their groupies. Even some of the Blitz kids, who looked down on disco music and thought they were so artistic, could be found whirling around with a bottle of amyl nitrate in one hand and a dubious partner in the other. Boy George, Steve Strange and Rusty Egan, although New Romantics at heart, were staunch regulars on the Embassy dance floor.

It may not have cut ice with the punk factions of the time, who with their nihilism and no-hope attitude wouldn't be seen dead dancing around to "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real", but like Studio 54 it was the place to be. It was cooler than its more glitzy neighbour Tramp, which seemed to have been inundated by Arabs, and held more kudos than the smaller and blacker Maunkerrys.

The door policy was strict but democratic; contemporary icons, freaks and beautiful people were invited in and those who did not fit into the scene were kept out. The mixed white, black, straight and gay crowd was a mélange of glamorous drag queens, leather-clad gays and girls draped in gowns by Halston, Gucci and Fiorucci. Everyone took part in the disco tradition of dressing up to go dancing. It was a far cry from today's dressing down in trainers and combat trousers.

The Embassy represented a twilight era of sexual liberation, which soon came to a halt as Thatcher came to power and the business-driven Eighties took over. In a sense, it was a "going nowhere" club. It hit the spot for a short period of time and eclipsed every other club in London. Yet when disco was over and music moved towards a more technological approach, the Embassy lost its appeal. It carried on briefly in the Eighties, but instead of stories of naughty goings-on, all there was were a handful of Sloanes trying to get off with their best friend's sister. It was a bit like waking up and realising that the world is really in black and white, and no matter what happens, the party is well and truly over.

REVELATIONS

MAEVE BINCHY, DUBLIN, 1957



MY MOTHER would talk not only to the person beside her on the bus, but the whole bus. As a teenager, I used to wish she didn't, because I was very self-conscious.

Tortured by the idea that everybody was watching me. I tried to make the most of myself, but as I was fat that was always hard. I remember getting ready for my very first dance, and because there were no tanning beds or fake tan lotion, I rubbed on my face a mixture of Nivea and the cheapest brand of brown boot polish - which most people wouldn't even put on their shoes.

From childhood, my friends and I had been peeping through the railings to watch this dance. We'd decided that girls in red were danced with more. Red didn't suit me, so I bought a horrible turquoise dress for 16 shillings. I tried it on so often, admiring myself in the mirror, that once when eating a choc-ice I dropped it over the front. With that and boot polish on my face, it is amazing that I wasn't ordered home from the hall.

I was very dangerous to dance

with, and the few men that did must have regretted it when they were left with strange marks on their chests.

As a student at University College Dublin, studying history, I thought academic life would be some kind of beauty contest, where the petite and fleet of foot would win all the garlands. We had this lovely big park called St Stephen's Green, and we students thought we owned it.

One day in my first year, I was sitting on a park bench wearing my "good" coat, beige with a brown velvet collar, which was really my old school coat. I looked awfully and childish. Feeling miserable, I started thinking: "Gosh, if only I had a navy duffel coat I wouldn't look so ludicrous, and the boys would fancy me."

I was brought up in a convent school, and there was quite a lot of emphasis by the nuns on the amount of lust we would meet in the outside world. It was up to us girls to try to keep it in the confines of good Catholic marriage. I was almost a little bit disappointed that there was so

little lust around for me to repel. In a blue duffel coat, I imagined much more practice in defending my holy purity. It would have had toggles and a little hood at the back, which you never put up, the *dernier cri* of the Fifties. Men wore them, women wore them - just like jeans nowadays, the duffel coat was a badge of belonging.

It was a lovely day and there were so many people moving around it was almost like an ant hill. I put down the book I was reading. Suddenly it was as clear as daylight, and it's never gone back: "Nobody is looking at me - it does not matter what I'm wearing. All these people walking through St Stephen's Green are wondering how they look. It's like after a dance, they're not all going to return home and tell their families: 'Maeve Binchy didn't get danced with for this number of times', or 'she was wearing an absurd yellow dress'."

It was an incredible liberation. Straightaway I stopped saving for the duffel coat - it didn't matter any more. The people

who wanted to have coffee and cakes with me, or dance with me, it didn't care if they liked me. I didn't care if a guy had spots, or lank hair falling into his eyes, if he was nice and interested in things. I assumed they would feel the same way, too. From then onwards I was never afraid. I wore miniskirts in the days when no fat girl should have, and with total delight.

Stopping being self-conscious opened a door to other things - such as a kibbutz in Israel at 23. I didn't care that I was the only Catholic girl there, or how I would look in shorts as I picked

oranges. I was much more interested in listening to other people talking, and hearing their stories. Stories have taken me to some incredible places.

Barbara Bush is a great fan and asked me for lunch at the White House. Driving up the avenue, I had a fit of the giggles. I did think it was ridiculous; I'm not the sort of person with an invitation, rather someone outside protesting about Vietnam. Everybody else would have worried about how they looked; my concern was whether I would know when to go.

Perhaps most important, my revelation on the park bench stopped me from putting on a literary style and gave me the courage to write about what I know. Many people of my age were affected by the dazzling novels of people such as Doris Lessing and Margaret Atwood, but being wary of affection, I decided that if I could talk, I could write.

Please don't jump to the conclusion that I'm constantly delighted with myself. I don't want to be a mad eccentric like

Quentin Crisp - there are limits. I was walking through Selfridges one day, and saw two old bag ladies, with floppy open coats coming towards me. I thought: "How extraordinary. They are the spitting image of each other; they must be twins. I wonder if they sleep together on the Embankment?"

So I started staring at them while they looked back at me. Suddenly I realised I was looking into a double mirror - it was me! Such a shock. I knew I had to smarten up. After I got rich, in 1983, I could afford to have clothes made for me. My instructions to dressmakers are always the same: no fittings, no discussions, no ironing. I like nice bright colours; it's stupid to wear navies, blacks and browns in the hope of blending into the background.

Sometimes I still glance in the mirror before going out and feel dreadful. "This dress does not fit me anywhere; it bunches up in the wrong place, I paid far too much money for the material." Two seconds later, I think: "Who cares?" Having been a teacher for eight years, I think: once a teacher, always a teacher. I'm always trying to improve people. Despite my own life being chaos, I know I can run everybody else's.

Sometimes, seeing 17-year-olds in agonies of self-consciousness, I'd love to tell them: "It doesn't matter; nobody is watching." But they wouldn't believe me.

Perhaps, instead, I put the message into my books. I was asked in France about my philosophy of life - it could happen nowhere else to a popular author.

I made something up quickly about it's not mattering what hand you're dealt, but how you play it. However, after further thought today, I've realised that in my stories there are no makeovers: ugly ducklings do not become beautiful swans, just confident ducks.

Maeve Binchy's new book, *Tara Road*, is published by Orion, price £16.99

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

Music

Listening between the lines

What do you gain from hearing authors reciting from their own work?

Michael Glover contrasts the voices of poet Seamus Heaney and novelist Iain Banks as they speak for themselves.

As I descend the soft-carpeted stairs to the stalls of the Piccadilly Theatre a few snatches of conversation come at me from the air: "He's down there in the dressing room, resting, collecting himself," says a female Irish voice, somewhat hushed and reverential. "Oh, he has nerves, surely, but he keeps himself very quiet before a reading."

Just then a great heave of high-cultured, high-toned people – publishers, poets, poets, novelists, representatives of *The Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement* – sweep me down and into my seat more deftly.

It's hot and full down there in the stalls, and quite a few people are already straining their eyes to read from the same book (well, different copies of the same book): *Opened Ground* by Seamus Heaney, his collected poems of 30 years that he's here to read from. Seamus will be amongst us, fully rested, in a moment or two. Meanwhile, we admire the set for Major Barbara, against which the cattle-dealer's son will be obliged to read, a highly respectable drawing room scene – and there's hislectern, a funny spindly gothic thing, plonked down on the edge of the carpet.

A tall, thin, nervy Waterside's typesetter is next to remind us that Seamus is a man of huge significance, and indeed one of the greatest of world literature, and that all proceed of the evening will be going to the Medical Foundation in support of their work amongst victims of torture throughout the world.

Then he strides, the hugely significant man himself, broad of shoulder, square and ruddy of face, hair, brilliantly white as bleached, flattened straw, combed forward to

conceal a lack. This reading will be longer than the usual poetry reading, he tells us as he squares up to the book on the lectern. After all, the event is associated with victims of torture. That quip gets an awkward guffaw or two, and then it's on to the poems, one from each of his books, from 1968 onwards.

The marvel of an evening with Heaney is that every word that he reads – and each one comes out slow and measured – is singled out for our particular attention, as if held up in the air to be judged and weighed by the voice that's speaking it, and then, with great and solemn care, handed over to the listener. And between every poem there is the commentary, the amusing aside, the scrupulous and incisive link between one poem and another, knitting the snippet of biography to the poetic act.

From the middle 1970s, for example, he reads us "A Constable Calls", which describes a familiar childhood experience of seeing a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary arriving on his bicycle at his father's farm to check the village returns. "I remember that baton of his," says Heaney, "so beautifully stitched." He steps aside from the lectern and mimics that act of precision-stitching in the air with his fingers. "It was so fascinating and so scarred – especially if you were called Seamus. Not so perhaps if you were a William. The problem was that my father was so inaccurate in his recollections of what was being grown on the farm. That terrified me..."

Heaney and his audience at the Piccadilly belong to the world of Radio Three. The novelist Iain Banks, who read at the British Library one rainy evening last week, writes to the accompaniment of

Radio One, and his audience is much more varied, much less self-consciously literary – there was the half-drowned kid in the baseball cap, for example, who bounded in on the balls of his feet and a couple of guys examining spread sheets on the front row. Could they be analysing some of his more fantastical plots?

Heaney has a single volume of fewer than 500 pages to show for a lifetime's endeavours as a poet. The feverishly prolific Banks writes one novel a year and has been doing so since *The Wasp Factory* was published in 1984. Heaney lives in perpetual fear that the gift of poetry will depart from him all of a sudden, and that he will be left with the cold comfort of silence. "Every poet is in a panic that it will stop," he told his audience. "You may be walking over the cliff at any moment." Listening to Iain Banks makes such a thought seem unimaginable. He just can't seem to stop the ideas coming.

Banks begins with a reading from *A Song of Stone*, his latest. Being this year's it must be what his publishers describe as "mainstream" rather than science fiction. He tends to alternate between the two.

He doesn't read too well. He seems all charged up, in too much of a hurry. Perhaps he's working out the plot of the next one as he reads this one. He stands just a little too far from the microphone as well, so that the occasional crucial link word is lost and all sense collapses in a heap.

Here is the gist of the story: there's been a break-down of society in the middle ages. The female lieutenant of a band of brigands is holed up in a castle somewhere in the middle of nowhere – or perhaps I just foolishly just missed the name. It's the usual sort of 400-year-old castle – complete with gloomy paintings, ta-

pestries – the sort of place where you habitually enquire after ghosts. She does. She's smart, dangerous, thin-lipped and sassy, this leet, with cold grey coals for eyes. She uses her cutlery with deadly dexterity. She taunts people. She yawns a lot. (Banks tells us afterwards that he likes strong women who don't take too much shit from men). Her companions are all called by their nicknames – so that they can re-invent themselves effortlessly like medieval existentialists. Here are some of their names: Death-Wish, Victim, Karmet, Love-God, Half-Cast, Fender... Fender? Could that be the microphone again?

The audience doesn't seem to mind too much. The crucial fact is that this Fifeshire phenomenon of amazing novelistic productivity is with us.

Then Banks stops, and walks away from the microphone. He's much younger, nervier and faster moving than Heaney. He stands in the centre of the stage, shifting from foot to foot. He clips a tiny mike to his shirt because he's not fond of staying still when he's beating off eager questions, he tells us, pulling a funny face and giggling.

After listening carefully to a couple of moments of intolerable silence, he shakes his head of tousled curly hair with all his teeth and says, as if to remind all we wet dots of our roles here: "Now you're going to be asking a lot of deeply penetrating questions, and getting a lot of shite in return..."

Seamus Heaney lolls against the gothic lectern of the Piccadilly Theatre, waiting for the next question.

"What's your favourite colour?" shouts a female voice from the Gods. He squints up, disbelieving. "Green," he replies.



Seamus Heaney: 'Every word is singled out for our particular attention'

Philip Meech

An eternal movement from zero hour

Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Exody* is the theme tune for the end of the millennium. It doesn't so much develop as evolve. Especially in Daniel Barenboim's capable hands. By Edward Seckerson

WITH EACH arrival comes a new departure, with each answer a new question, and with each a new beginning. Sir Harrison Birtwistle's tremendous orchestral essay *Exody* ("23: 59: 59") begins in the vast empty space between the highest and lowest C naturals his orchestra can access, from violin harmonics and *glockenspiel* almost beyond the reach of hearing to string basses and electric piano on the bottom of the world. But it never truly ends, or indeed "arrives", but rather pauses, suspended on a single E natural as the digital display of your imagination finally clicks over from "23:59:59" to "24:00". It's the last midnight of the old millennium.

Thirty minutes of real time have elapsed in that one second. But what is a second in eternity? What is eternity but a never-ending journey? And so *Exody* journeys unconstrained by time – real or imagined – until it stops (or doesn't, as the case may be). You may sense a resolution of sorts, but in fact there is none, because Birtwistle decided long, long ago that it was better to journey than to arrive. Whether active or inactive (and the tension between the two is one of the work's key features), *Exody* is music in a perpetual state of exposition – meaning that it is forever revealing itself.

Birtwistle is very much a composer of our time, of our century, but in his lifelong rush to zero hour (whenever that may be) he drags a lot of history with him. His music is full of primitive and mythological resonance. It doesn't develop; it evolves. It isn't composed; it just is. At least, that's how it sounds. And it sounded very well in the capable hands of the orchestra and conductor that commissioned it: Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony.

The rest of their eagerly anticipated first Prom – namely Mahler's Fifth Symphony – was oddly dispiriting, as if our energy, and theirs, had already

PROMS
CHICAGO SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON



Conductor Daniel Barenboim

been well spent. The whole performance seemed to come and go (mainly go) in strict accordance with Barenboim's own level of engagement. Sometimes he was there, sometimes not at all. Some of the playing was beautiful, articulate; some flaccid. As witness the quite shockingly sloppy attack, or rather lack of, into the second movement, marked, incidentally "with the greatest vehemence". Vehemence (as in those fierce Mahlerian contrasts) was not in the vocabulary of this performance. It was far too comfortable (sonically and spiritually) and self-satisfied; pat. The opening trumpet summons augured well with a blast from the past; a phantom bugler whose wide vibrato was very much from the old world. But the ensuing funeral march, whilst shot-through with the appropriate klezmer band colours, was very much about appearances and not about feelings.

But this is a tale of two Barenboims and two orchestras. Their second Prom, on Friday, was another story. First there was *Till Eulenspiegel* rogue, master prankster – ducking and diving through the orchestra, whistling Richard Strauss the while. Lightning reflexes, wry smiles, ride rubatos, and a scrawny E-flat clarinet grimly anticipating the noose tightening around his neck. The Mahler of

the previous night was already a faded memory, notwithstanding, of course, the spectral waltzes and militaristic marches and fatalistic hammer blows, the Mahlerian refractions of Alban Berg's sensational *Three Pieces for Orchestra*. Barenboim sought and found the heart of it – a cello solo lasting no more than a couple of bars. But its reach was a whole symphony's worth.

And so Barenboim was engaged, his musical authority (or should that be autonomy) possessed now of a deeper expression. You could hear it, feel it, almost touch it with the arrival of the great second subject of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony. Just the way in which the first phrase was breathlessly anticipated, the way it bloomed and resonated. Very beautiful, very old school. As was the entire performance.

One could argue that the first movement development was too measured truly to unleash the terrors (through bass trombone and tuba) thrillingly marked out our descent to the abyss), that the finale's soulful *adagio lamentoso* was initially too rosy, but the artistry at work here was considerable, the Chicago strings investing everything in the kind of meaningful *sostenuto* you rarely hear outside Vienna or Berlin. And unlike his Mahler, Barenboim's Tchaikovsky didn't just tell us about Barenboim.

Shaking a fist at God

PROMS

LONDON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA:
BEETHOVEN, TIPPETT
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

making for free expression.

Undoubtedly the most remarkable feature of Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* is the symbiotic relationship between the formality and concision of the redemptive arias, and choruses – so closely modelled on Bach's Passions – and the highly emotive free-flow of the spirituals. "Crystal Night" – the advent of Jewish persecution – is concentrated into a terse fugal chorus of little more than a minute. But the response – the "spiritual of anger" – is "Go Down, Moses", an expansive, resounding setting in which all the world seems to find a voice. Davis and his forces – not least, of course the splendidly open-throated London Symphony Chorus – flung wide the word like true believers. This is a piece where moments must be seized and simple truths communicated in an instant. Its directness of utterance is disarming. There is nowhere to hide.

None of these performers needed to. Tenor Jerry Hadley invested everything he sang with the fervent, in-your-face tone of the spirituals. That was something we as "a community", as opposed to an audience, could relate to. Likewise the plain-speaking bass of John Tomlinson. Nora Gubisch proffered some throatily arresting mezzo colours, and from the moment the creamy, beautifully "covered" sound of soprano Deborah Riedel floated to a perfect high A in blissful anticipation of "Steal Away", it was clear that the spirit moved in her. It surely moved in Tippett. The final word of "Deep River", the final word of the piece, is "Lord", starkly, simply, intoned as a falling third: acceptance and an open question at one and the same time.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Music that made the world go round

CLASSICAL
HEAVENLY HARMONY
SOUTH BANK CENTRE
LONDON

Besides playing and promoting ancient music, Pickett has made a feature of exploring what now appear esoteric, even bizarre, influences on its creation.

His "Heavenly Harmony" weekend encouraged audiences to consider the remarkably uniform theoretical and metaphysical backgrounds to countless works composed before Copernicus redrafted the medieval world picture, and enlightened philosophers rejected the harmony of the spheres. Although pre-concert talks and programme book essays offered pathways into a long-defunct belief system, Pickett's challenge was to devise a programme of works that might do the same.

HanDEL may not be the most obvious candidate to open a mini-festival

devoted to music's supernatural powers, but the plot of his opera *Orlando* is fuelled by the interventions of Zoroastro, a magician able to read the stars and alter destiny. The Early Opera Company's production was a disappointment – safe in its risk-free delivery of Handel's score, underpinned by bland singing and a minimalist staging that involved the cast in fuzzy gymnastics with seven symbolic spheres and much slithering around a crescent-shaped impediment. Zoroastro, robustly but not passionately sung by

Matthew Hargreaves, appeared more like Michael Palin's *Monty Python* castaway than a plausible presiding genius, irritatingly amusing in florid length dreadlocks and matted beard. Louis Mott sounded uncomfortable in the title-role, unable to make the most of her impressive mezzo tone in *Orlando*'s low-lying music and only coming to life in coloratura passages. Conversely, Geraldine McGreevy was well cast as Angelica but rarely willing or able to alter the colour if not the dynamic of her voice.

Earlier territories were explored with greater success by the Catalan gambist Jordi Savall and his ensemble Hesperion XX, and by the New London Consort, revisiting the visionary world of Gautier de Coincy's *Miracles de Notre-Dame* and

presenting a flawless, intensely moving, semi-staged account of the 13th-century cleric's work.

After a rather subdued look at dance works by Ortiz, the Hesperion XX programme turned to secular songs (or *tonos humanos*) by the priest, robber and serial murderer José Marin, expressively and seductively sung by Savall's wife, Montserrat Figueras, and given irresistible spirit by the flamenco-style improvisations of guitarist Rolf Lislevand and Adela Gonzalez-Campes' articulate castanets. Here were the fruits of a group that gets to know its repertoire, lives with it for months in rehearsal, and then enjoys the business of performing it.

ANDREW STEWART



Michael-Hue Williams Fine Art

'Descent' of the River Taw, unique Cibachrome, 12ft by 2ft, 1998; below, 'Spawn', 1992, unique Cibachrome photograph, 16in by 12in

The secret life of the riverbed

From a distance, it looks like an old Second World War aerial photograph. Heavy lines mark out the roads. Those boxes, one after another, are houses on an estate. The blurred grey stuff—they are trees. But this is not something from *Photographic Intelligence*—it is a photograph of ice. As you get closer, you can trace the giant stress cracks, the tiny tendrils and the swirling ebb and flow of the river Taw, now caught frozen until spring comes.

Susan Derges has been working with water for seven years. She captures its ebb and flow in photographs—one of the earliest forms of photography using a method of taking a picture that doesn't involve a camera or a lens. With photographs, light-sensitive paper is placed under the subject and a flash exposes its image onto the paper. "There was much baggage and theory with camera-based photography. I wanted to simplify it and make the connection between image and subject as close as possible," says Derges, who has been making photographs since 1981 when she captured sound waves by placing a sound generator under light-sensitive paper *on top* of which was a scattering of powder. The image made showed the "very beautiful organic patterns" sound can make.

The idea to work with water came to Derges after she moved to Dartmoor. But prior to this, she had lived and worked in Tokyo for five years. She went there as an artist, a graduate of the Chelsea and then the Slade School of Art, but in Tokyo the pace of life "made my art seem very inappropriate". Derges' art then was abstract and very labour intensive but, fun-

nily enough, looked not dissimilar to her "river prints" of today. Back from Japan, Derges set up again in London and continued her work capturing "liquid" processes such as sand and also mercury.

In the early Nineties, she moved to the West Country. "When I moved to Dartmoor, what I had been setting up in my studio was suddenly on my doorstep—rivers, water, constant flux and change." And frogspawn, which Derges happened upon one morning. With the sun shining onto the pond, the spawn made shadows on the pond bed. Derges took some spawn back to her studio and did a whole set of photograph prints chronicling the metamorphosis of the spawn into frogs, called *Full Circle*. The water prints soon followed.

"The first time I worked with water was using a brook near where I live. I thought it would be possible to just lie the paper in the water, but of course it floated to the surface," explains Derges. So she made light boxes out of sheets of aluminium, attached the light sensitive paper (Cibachrome, so it makes a positive negative) to the bottom sheet of aluminum with double-sided tape—the paper gets wet in the process—and then fixed a lid on top to protect the paper from light until exposure.

Then, after making intensive recesses, Derges, either alone or with helpers (the prints are life-sized and some are over 20 foot long), goes to the water's edge, removes the lids and submerges the weighted paper. This must be done at night and thus effectively the environment becomes her dark room.

Once the paper is in place, Derges must work fairly quickly. When she feels the moment is right, the flash is let off and the

Susan Derges' photographs capture the exquisite organic patterns of water. By Annalisa Barbieri

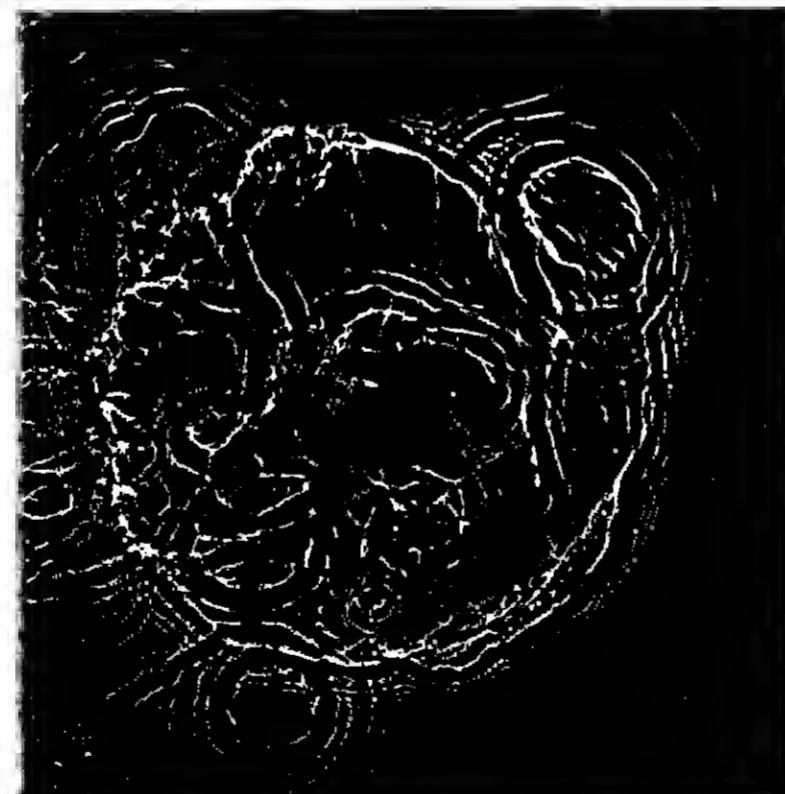


image is made. The ripples of water, any leaves either floating by or overhanging (no fish since they will have long been spooked) and other river bed debris will have been captured.

Many things are fascinating about this process. Because the image is life-sized, you get a real sense of the force of the water, of being there. This is further reinforced since the image is taken under water. It is a unique view of the water. Derges is keen on this. It is "as close as you could get to lying under the water yourself". Because each stretch of river is unique, each print becomes like an identifying fingerprint but a unique one that can never be repeated. The phases of the moon also affect the final print. One, called *Waterfall* and taken on a full moon, is an intense aquamarine colour. With *Shore Line*, a giant 24ft by 8ft print taken during a half moon, the magenta edges of the incoming surf were created by "interference" of street lights reflecting on the water.

When the river prints were first exhibited, they followed the river Taw from its source on north Dartmoor to the sea and with it, the cyclical change of seasons. Hence the ice print when parts of the river were frozen, to a full flowing spring river. Now, some prints have been added, some taken away as Derges' work constantly evolves.

From the 19 Sept to the 24 Oct will be the very last chance to see the river and shore line prints (shown along with the frogspawn collection) in this country. After that, these magical, hypnotic prints will travel to the Fraenkel Gallery in San Francisco and then the James Dan Ziger Gallery in New York. The work going to

America will have evolved again this time showing a year in the life of not only the river Taw but also the trees, whose foliage—from barren to leafy—and roots, interact with it.

Derges' prints will probably never make it back here. With each exhibition, the prints are bought by collectors. Unique, serene and beautiful ("I always feel my photographic work is like painting with light"), it's funny to think of bits of a humble Dartmoor river hanging on walls all over the world.

But if you don't make it to the exhibition in Cornwall, the Victoria & Albert museum has bought the dazzling sky-blue and lilac *Waterfall* print which will be shown in the Canon Photography Gallery in an exhibition entitled *Silver and Syrup*. "Susan's pictures are breathtaking," says the V&A's assistant curator of photography, Charlotte Cotton, who chose the print. "She uses photography to display the quality of water which is not visible to the naked eye and creates a new and exciting vocabulary for the medium of photography whilst calling to mind the earliest photographic processes and motivations of the 1840s. I can vividly remember every exhibition of Susan's work that I have ever been to—I can remember how I felt in the presence of her images more than anything else."

Susan Derges' 'River Taw' exhibition
will be shown at the Newlyn Art Gallery,
New Road, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall
from 19 September–24 October 1998. Tel:
01736 363715. The 'Silver and Syrup'
exhibition at the Canon Photography
Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 will run
from 26 November 1998 to 12 April 1999

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Concrete words and earthy images

LITTLE SPARTA, the garden built by the poet Ian Hamilton Finlay in the Pentland Hills some 30 miles south west of Edinburgh, is one of the great art works of the late 20th century end, I'd argue, one of the greatest works of art ever made on Scottish soil. Certainly, it's the greatest ever made of Scottish soil—the realisation of one man's vision of a classical garden in the midst of an untamed land. Rather an eccentric vision, or, as Finlay has put it, a vision "which was absolutely absurd considering this was just a moorland and I had only a spade".

Work began in 1966, when Finlay and his wife Sue first took

on the shepherd's cottage that is now his home, and has continued ever since. Constantly evolving and growing, as gardens do, and prompting all sorts of now legendary battles between Finlay and Strathclyde Region over the nature (or as they saw it, the rateable value) of the garden buildings.

These days, Little Sparta stands as testament to one of the most original and creative minds to have emerged in this country since the Second World War, but for a variety of complicated reasons, it can't readily be seen by the public. So, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery's exhibition of Robert

Gillander's photographs is to be warmly welcomed, for it is as close to the garden as most folk are likely to get. And without the garden, I don't think that one can really begin to understand what Finlay is about.

Gillander's photographs are

not, however, simply a record of Finlay's achievements. They are in themselves very beautiful images: the best landscape photography, thoughtful and, in every sense of the word, composed. Together, they add up to a portrait of a man and his

work made over several years and many visits, and one which shares both Finlay's sense of humour and sadness.

These moods crop up on you in the garden and in Gillander's portrait. Sometimes, like his aircraft carrier bird table, making a joke: turning the swallows into fighter jets. Sometimes suggesting a more sombre thought such as that met at the end of the garden by a small headstone, elegantly lettered with a single word—Fragile—a reminder of the nature of things with the bare moorland beyond.

Finlay first made his name at the forefront of the concrete poetry movement in the early

1960s and still describes himself firstly as a poet. Certainly, a search for poetic expression is at the heart of all that he does; that and the all-important place of man in relation to nature—the necessary imposition of order on chaos and the battle that ensues. All of this is central to his work. All of it feeds back to his work at Little Sparta. The show at the Portrait Gallery is accompanied by a series of Finlay's "detached sentences". One of them, "Certain gardens are described as retreats when they are really attack", reads like a code for his life's work.

Until 29 November

RICHARD NGLEW

Sept 10 1998

There's no place like home

Pieter de Hooch was a 17th-century artist who turned his sharp eye on to the homely, humdrum life of the household and the tavern and bathed it in a light so sympathetic that his pictures have an almost religious quality. By Tom Lubbock

NOT A lot is known. He lived from 1629 to 1684. His father was a bricklayer. He worked in Delft and Amsterdam. He never made much. He married and had seven children. He spent his last years in a madhouse. Nowadays, about 170 paintings are assigned to his name. Don't say it like "smooch", say it like "croak". Pieter de Hooch.

The 40 paintings now gathered from around the world at the Dulwich Picture Gallery are billed as de Hooch's first ever one-man show, which, if true, suggests curatorial mischance more than anything else. De Hooch has never been a neglected artist, and he's hardly obscure. His works star in any round-up of Dutch 17th-century art; he's the great homebody of the Golden Age. Still, shown in quantity, they make a revelation.

The earliest pictures here, from his early twenties, are hearty drinking scenes. They feature the sort of characters who, in a Larkin poem, get called Jan van Hoepsne and Dirk Dogstoerd. They go "cheers, mate" to the viewer - but the modern viewer can't easily return the compliment. They seldom seem funny or fun. In fact, de Hooch doesn't have his heart in it. His versions aren't very rude or dissolute. And after a while things quieten down and smarten up further, and you start to think of Vermeer.

Vermeer is the obvious comparison throughout, the more famous artist whose work de Hooch's can best be defined against. De Hooch's scenes are always less still, less enclosed, less mesmeric. A picture such as *A Merry Company with Two Men and Two Women* - you might call it Vermeer between takes, it has Vermeer's intense single light source, but not his intense human encounter. The poses have been dropped, people relax, the protagonists furt and drink at their ease. Well, it's natural to do the comparison that way, but probably it was de Hooch, the slightly older artist, who inspired Vermeer. You're looking at the kind of scene Vermeer realised he could do something with.

But in the Delft years, de Hooch was an innovator. He made the home, the Dutch bourgeois household, its front rooms and back yards, a subject of new importance. In the yard scenes, what's exciting is the sense of something like social realism, or reportage: a servant crosses a courtyard carrying a jug and a bucket, averting her eyes from the shaft of sun that hits her face; a woman lays out bleached linen on the ground. These feel like slices of daily life, snapshots from the past. Indeed, they look quite like photographs. On the other hand, they're moral subjects too. What are they about? Cleaning.

Whatever activity they depict, you might call all de Hooch's domestic scenes advertisements for housework, ideal home exhibitions. Or you might elevate this, and call them lessons in domestic virtue - which, of course, means female virtue. His protagonists are almost always women: the housewife and her servants, often with children, often nursing mothers. And if we, in our turn, are going to moralise on these pictures, we may feel torn. They have very clear and strict ideas about a woman's place. But they are also sympathetically woman-centred, and they exalt these fairly humbled homes into holy places, baffled by an Annunciation light.

Light is de Hooch's forte. He sees how light scatters and bounces, how it gets everywhere - raking the grain of a wooden door; sparkling off ceramic floor tiles, bending through glass, striking a reflective gleam off



'A Mother and Child with its Head on her Lap', oil on canvas, by Pieter de Hooch

objects apparently in darkness. Look at the picture called *The Bedroom*. These rooms are echo-chambers for the day, and, of course, with its more than virtuous effect it makes equations. Sunlight is the good housewife's friend, the bad one's foe, showing off the shine of scrubbed and polished surfaces, showing up its absence. Cleanliness is next to godliness, a symbol of spiritual purity. Light is divine.

It's not just light that de Hooch delivers so brilliantly, but also an overall sense of lucidity. The spaces of his rooms - he makes them feel as cubic volumes, contained by planes in three dimensions. Their inhabitants - people, furniture, propped brooms, animals - stand on the chequer-board floors as space-markers, with tangible space around them. He makes parts feel, too. The scenes have a texture of construction; they stress bits, brickwork,

floor tiles, wall tiles, shutters, panes, components fitted together as if from a kit, which also form beautiful patterns: a place for everything, everything in its place, everything right and clear.

His work can strike a modernist note. These arrangements of flat-or-rectangles - doorways, windows, bed-frames, pictures-on-walls - make de Hooch look like the ancestor of de Stijl, Mondrian and Co. See, for instance, the painted wooden shutter that swings in on the left of *Courtyard in Delft*, a grabitous pure-form flag of scarlet. But this emphasis overlooks de Hooch's equally insistent receding perspectives, which draw the eye so often through an open doorway into the room beyond.

These glimpses are de Hooch's most piercing trick, (and *A Mother and Child with its Head on her Lap* is probably its most wonderful example). The room in the foreground

is usually quite shady. The room we see through into is filled with light - and filled also with promise. The device feels very deep, I think because it taps into early feelings about the bigness of the world opening out beyond our vision; it's not surprising that Proust gives it a mention. To compare the painter with a very different contemporary, in these glimpses de Hooch creates "yonders" as powerful as the eye-locating distances in the landscapes of Claude Lorrain. But at the same time it's an absolutely everyday magic, child's play. The promised land is just the room next door.

The spatial drama is so strong that you almost wish the human beings away. De Hooch's people are certainly hit and miss - sometimes there's very finely observed adult-child body-language, with a younger impatiently tugging the arm of a grown-up who's still talking to

someone; sometimes they're pretty wooden. You do need the people, though. Empty rooms would become uncanny; you'd start to think of unseen things lurking, and that would be wrong.

But one reason the later work less strongly than the earlier work is that it's more people-heavy, more focused on human dramas. The world also gets posterised; the compositions more formal, and in a sense messier - you feel there are things that the Delft housewives would have swiftly tidied up. But in fact, it's just that the lighting is more dingy.

There are some spectacular set-pieces from this period. The textures are opulent. In *The Interior of the Burgomasters' Council Chamber in the Amsterdam Town Hall with Visitors*, the people stand grandly around the floor like pieces in a game of human chess, while above them

a vast swag of scarlet curtain hangs in top left, occupying a whole quarter of the picture surface. But what has been lost is the luminous and perspicuous revelation of space and construction.

Every paragraph above might have had in it somewhere the phrase "unlike Vermeer". But one last general comparison may be some use. Vermeer was once called the Sphinx of Delft. He offered a double mystery. Little was known of his life, while the enigma of his art - so charged, but so reserved - made it natural to seek an answer in his psyche (and people have made big meals out any tit-bit of personal information that turns up). But no one would call de Hooch a sphinx. His life is equally obscure, but this doesn't feel like a lack. It feels fine. It's hard to be at all interested in his personality. His works don't show attitude, and they don't offer the sort of intensity that makes you want to go soul-searching either.

The clincher is the madhouse business. There is only the bare record of a fact. But with so many artists, it's a fact we would try to make something of. We'd eagerly spot symptoms. A madness story like that would be bound, somehow, to affect our view of their work (and with one Dutch artist, of course, it's been known to take over completely). But with de Hooch, there is nothing for the story to get a purchase on. There is no sign of anything like madness or excess psychic pressure. There is wonder, but no mystery. His vision is transparent. He makes the world clear.

Pieter de Hooch: Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, London SE21; until 15 November. Closed Mondays. Admission: £5, concessions £2.50

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING MODERN ART: BARRY MICKLEBURGH

FOR UP to six hours at a time, Barry Mickleburgh lies in an army sleeping-bag in fields among crows, rooks and magpies. They look at him, and he looks at them, sketching them in pencil. The result is a series of oil paintings, *Corvidae*, (Latin for the crow family), showing episodes from their everyday lives.

He has watched crows, his favourites, give each other gifts of titbits in a polite manner befitting their black formal dress. They have a sense of decorum that is rather British. In his painting *Symptom*, shown here, a fourth crow is landing on a wacky signpost, much to the consternation of the three who got there first. The newcomer looks away nonchalantly, pretending there has a right to be there. Two of the others, disgruntled,

glare at him. The fourth does not want to get involved; he prepares to take off before the signpost collapses.

Mickleburgh, who lives in a 16th-century farmhouse in Norfolk, is aged 46, but began painting only five years ago. His meticulously detailed, velvety-textured paintings fetch between £250 and £4,000. He has more commissions from America than he can cope with, and is being shown next month at Gallery 27, Cork Street, West London, and until 16 September in a Christie's exhibition - organised by the Arts Dyslexia Trust.

For most of his life, Mickleburgh did not know he was dyslexic. He worked as a carpenter until he was injured in a motorcycle accident 11 years ago. Still in plaster, he enrolled on a



GCSE course at Norwich City College. It was there that his difficulty in taking notes from the blackboard led to his being diagnosed dyslexic. Before that, he thought of himself as being not very intelligent, or even backward. But he went on to do a degree course in fine

art at Norwich School of Art, where, in his final year, he started painting.

Dyslexics learn in a way that is different from that of people who get information from the printed word. Mickleburgh says: "If you've never read a book, you have to formulate your own thoughts and opinions from what goes on around you. Dyslexics often appear odd because they have individually formed ideas. Also, as we have to deceive in order to hide our disability, we tend to be less sociable."

"Perhaps that's why I can't tell if someone is being pleasant or unpleasant to me. To try to find out, I read people's eyes. So I have an advantage when I look at the expressions of creatures - especially ones I can make eye contact with."

That is the link between

his dyslexia and his painting.

If you look into the eyes of Mickleburgh's crows you can get a glimpse of the extraordinary sensitivity that can develop in people from beyond the Gutenberg Galaxy.

"Sometimes," says Mickleburgh, "I feel like a throw-back to the time when we were hunters and gatherers. If I were an aborigine, I think I'd do rather well. To be honest, I like being dyslexic."

The Arts Dyslexia Trust exhibition of art by dyslexic people is at Christie's, Ryder Street, London SW1, until 16 September. Christie's (0171-839 0860). Arts Dyslexia Trust (01303 813221). Fifteen paintings by Mickleburgh will be shown at Gallery 27, Cork Street, London W1, 5-10 October (0181-675 8110).

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HEALTH

Jealousy is not just a state of mind or an affair of the heart. It's now classed as a treatable medical condition. By Roger Dobson

The worst threat is your own mind

Until two years ago, Richard's marriage had been blissfully happy. Then, one summer, he was unexpectedly made redundant from his job in marketing. His wife went back to work as a result and at this point he became convinced that she was being unfaithful.

He followed her, checked the mileage on the car, listened in on her telephone conversations, quizzed her about her outings, opened her mail, insisted on meeting her from work and finally refused to believe that she was and always had been faithful to him.

The final straw came after he had spent several hours of a rainy night sitting in the bushes outside his own home, believing his wife was inside with her lover, only to discover that her mother had made a surprise visit. It was only then that he fully appreciated what was happening to him and sought treatment for his pathological jealousy.

According to Freud, jealousy is a milder form is universal and inevitable. Its roots, he suggested, are in our childhood traumas and the inevitable Oedipal conflict, and if we don't experience jealousy when a relationship is under threat, then there is actually something wrong with us.

But it is when jealousy turns into pathological jealousy, or the Oedipal syndrome as it is now called, that problems begin to surface and treatment becomes necessary.

Increasing numbers of people are seeking medical and psychological help for their jealousy, and contributing factors are thought to include the rate of marital breakdowns and the rising number of working women, some of whose men are unable of coping with "losing" their partner.

New research also suggests that more people may also be seeking treatment because today there is less tolerance of jealousy, which has more and more come to be identified with lack of trust and stalking.

than with any real notion of romance or love.

As an emotion, jealousy is thought to originate during Freud's Oedipal state at the age of two to three years old. According to the founder of psychoanalysis, it is during this stage that we experience our first stirrings of sexuality, and these urges are directed at the closest person of the opposite sex, mum or dad.

But, the theory continues, the young toddler inevitably loses out and when in later life there is a threat to another relationship, the painful wound is reopened and experienced as jealousy.

For the majority of people, jealousy is a normal, healthy reaction that can actually improve relationships. For many others, it is an obsessive, irrational and often unfounded fear where depression and anger can be triggered by an innocuous event such as a telephone call who hangs up when they answer the phone.

"Jealousy is a response to a perceived threat to a valued relationship," says Dr Ayala Pines, author of *A Romantic Jealousy, causes, symptoms and cures*, which is published this week. "Although jealousy occurs in different forms and in varying degrees of intensity, it always results from an interaction between a certain predisposition and a particular triggering event."

Predispositions to jealousy vary widely between individuals. For someone with a high predisposition, a triggering event can be as minor as a partner's glance at an attractive stranger passing by. For most people, however, the trigger for intense jealousy is a much more serious event, such as the discovery of an illicit affair. For others, the trigger can be imagined.

Dr Pines points out that there have been cultural changes in perceptions of jealousy: "Until the 1960s, the message was that a certain amount of jealousy was natural, a proof of love and good for the marriage. Women were told to avoid

situations that might make their husband jealous, but to interpret his expressions of jealousy as evidence of love.

"But around 1970, a new view of jealousy started to take root. This emerging view was that jealousy was not natural. Jealousy was no longer seen as a proof of love, but evidence of a defect such as low self-esteem or the inability to trust."

It's when jealousy gets out of hand that treatment is needed quickly. It is one of the most powerful emotions and can lead to violence, murder and suicide. It can also damage physical and mental health, and ruin relationships.

"Jealousy can quickly become pathological and pathological," according to Professor Petruska Clarkson, a psychologist who deals with cases of jealousy at her London practice. "It is based on insecurity and a low self-esteem. Then it can take the form of wanting to possess the partner, restricting their liberty or controlling their behaviour which rapidly becomes self-defeating.

"The most common cure is to value yourself more and to learn to find love, and also to value people who freely love you and prefer to be with you. When jealousy has become pathological, professional counselling should be sought because it can become as crippling and disabling as a life-threatening disease at the emotional level and interfere with all aspects of life."

Stressful life events such as job loss, death of a parent and ill health, can act as triggering events for pathological jealousy and some people, such as those whose self-esteem is low or who have a generally more suspicious nature, may be more easily triggered.

Individual reactions to jealousy vary enormously. In her research, Dr Pines found that 7 per cent of

partners, both men and women, resorted to violence, and 30 per cent said they left the relationship. Forty-two per cent sulk and a third retaliate with copycat behaviour; but 55 per cent said they fully accepted the situation.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, people with paranoid personality disorders may experience pathological jealousy: "They often suspect that their spouse or partner is unfaithful without any adequate justification. They may gather trivial and circumstantial evidence to support their beliefs. They may want to maintain complete control of intimate relationships to avoid being betrayed."

There is a range of different therapies for treating unwanted or uncontrollable jealousy, including couple counselling, hypnosis, behaviour dampening drugs, anti-depressants, behaviour therapy and psychoanalysis.

When a patient's jealousy has been triggered by an identifiable event, such as a partner talking to another man/woman at a party or a partner going to work for the first time, that can be tackled with a programme of desensitisation to these cues using behavioural therapy techniques.

In this exposure and response approach, the patient is exposed to cues which provoke these jealousy-related behaviours, and then agrees that for a period of time they will refrain from that behaviour. Anger control therapy is also used for those who suffer pathological jealousy, as well as assertive training for their partners.

In implosion therapy, the patient is taught to imagine his/her worst fear again and again so that the real fear reduces. In Dutch Cow Therapy - so called because the telephone takes the place of the bells worn by cows to let their owner

know where they are - the guilty but contrite partner agrees to ring home every hour. In Pretend Therapy, the non-jealous partner is helped to look at the world through the eyes of the wife/husband.

If the therapy or drug treatment is successful, jealousy should be curable. In some cases it may well disappear altogether, and in a very small number of instances it just might turn into pathological tolerance.

This rare condition, which is also known as psychological scotoma, is where the sufferer has a total inability to recognise jealousy triggers that are completely obvious to everyone else. Now, if only Desdemona could have married someone like that...

A Romantic Jealousy, causes, symptoms and cures, by Ayala Malach Pines is published by Routledge on Friday, £12.99

Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable try to keep their emotions in check in 'Gone with the Wind'

Health Check

possess the partner, restricting their liberty or controlling their behaviour which rapidly becomes self-defeating.

"The most common cure is to value yourself more and to learn to find love, and also to value people who freely love you and prefer to be with you. When jealousy has become pathological, professional counselling should be sought because it can become as crippling and disabling as a life-threatening disease at the emotional level and interfere with all aspects of life."

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In this exposure and response approach, the patient is exposed to cues which provoke these jealousy-related behaviours, and then agrees that for a period of time they will refrain from that behaviour. Anger control therapy is also used for those who suffer pathological jealousy, as well as assertive training for their partners.

In implosion therapy, the patient is taught to imagine his/her worst fear again and again so that the real fear reduces. In Dutch Cow Therapy - so called because the telephone takes the place of the bells worn by cows to let their owner

know where they are - the guilty but contrite partner agrees to ring home every hour. In Pretend Therapy, the non-jealous partner is helped to look at the world through the eyes of the wife/husband.

If the therapy or drug treatment is successful, jealousy should be curable. In some cases it may well disappear altogether, and in a very small number of instances it just might turn into pathological tolerance.

This rare condition, which is also known as psychological scotoma, is where the sufferer has a total inability to recognise jealousy triggers that are completely obvious to everyone else. Now, if only Desdemona could have married someone like that...

A Romantic Jealousy, causes, symptoms and cures, by Ayala Malach Pines is published by Routledge on Friday, £12.99

Your surgery is so cosmetic, man

Men are being lead by the nose to plastic surgeons. Lynne Eaton smells a rat

FASHION-CONSCIOUS men are becoming more discerning in their aesthetic and cosmetic tastes, it seems. "Jamie Theakston is very popular with the chaps right now. His nose is masculine, well defined with a strong bridge," Mel Brigham, a plastic surgeon, enthused to one newspaper last week.

Perhaps. Whatever men are hoping to achieve from cosmetic surgery, whether a better love life or a better paid job, they are rapidly catching up with women in realising the enormous potential of the scalpel. According to the Harley Medical Group, one of the country's leading cosmetic surgery clinics, around 40 per cent of procedures are now performed on men. Five years ago, it was only 18 per cent.

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MARIE STOPES
HEALTH CLINICS



TOTP presenter Jamie Theakston has the nose many want to copy

believes the increase in male cosmetic surgery may be simply because: "More and more people have more disposable wealth. Chaps with ears that stick out or people with big noses are much more likely to spend a couple of thousand pounds."

Although gay men, who have tended to be more body-conscious than most, do have cosmetic surgery (removal of facial hair is particularly popular), most of the men at the Harley Medical Group clinics are straight, says Mr Coles.

"They are just Mr Average. Their tummy sticks out, or their penis is too small. They don't look a freak, but they think they do." One patient, in his forties, had been troubled all

his life about his large ears: "He was a very pleasant man, who came to the clinic with his wife. He had long hair, which looked odd at that age. It turned out that when he was young, he was teased because his ears stuck out, and had deliberately grown his hair long to hide them."

"When I told him we would be able to help, he just burst into tears. He was just so relieved that he wouldn't have to worry any more."

But buying an "off-the-shelf" nose, like the "tear drop" is as frowned upon by cosmetic surgeons as much as asking for a Rachel (from Friends) hair cut is, by a hairdresser.

"We understand that people tend to identify with famous figures," says Mr Coles. "We have to be careful to say that though we will try to make it look like that person, that doesn't mean that you are definitely going to look like them."

While women worry about "cellulite", men's guts are one of men's biggest worries. Christopher Douglas, 26, was 6ft 2in tall, and weighed in at 17 stone when he went for liposuction back in February.

"I had this beer belly and fat thighs," says Christopher. "It was quite embarrassing on the beach, or changing for sport. I had dieted, got lots of exercise, and had even given up drinking. But it was having no effect."

"As I was reading through the magazines, liposuction caught my eye. It was extremely expensive £2,500 - but I had inherited some money, so I decided to go for it. Friends laughed at first, but then agreed with me. Men are much more vain and self-conscious than they used to be."

"It wasn't painful, just uncomfortable," he says. "They don't take that much off - only half a stone. But there was a difference straight away. I could get into trousers that had been bursting at the seams."

"I've really gained a lot of confidence. I'm not embarrassed chatting up girls."

"And, yes," he admits. "My love life has improved."

For further information contact the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, who will send a list of members if you send them a large size 35 Lincoln Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PN (0171-802 2234).

To find out whether a surgeon is qualified in plastic surgery, contact the General Medical Council (0171-580 7622). The British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons (0171-323 5728) tends to represent surgeons in private clinics who may not be qualified plastic surgeons. The Harley Medical Group runs a helpline on cosmetic surgery: 0870 603 4444.

PREPARE TO shed a tear for Dr Luigi Di Bella. He, you may remember, is the Italian physiologist with the "miracle cure" for cancer who numbers the Pope among his tens of thousands of supporters. So great, in fact, was the demand for his drug cocktail known as MDB, that the Italian government dropped its opposition to the treatment and agreed to sponsor trials.

Here was Di Bella's chance to prove himself. An international commission led by Professor Gordon McVie, director of the UK Cancer Research Campaign, oversaw nine separate trials around Italy. Initial results from four of them showed that not one of the 136 patients who volunteered for the tests showed any signs of recovery.

It was a bit of a setback for Dr Di Bella, you might have thought. Possibly even a fatal blow for his "gentler, non-toxic and more humane" treatment, offered as an alternative to chemotherapy. But no. Dr Di Bella plans to sue the doctors who conducted the trials, claiming that they mixed the cocktail in the wrong proportions. That he persistently refused to divulge the exact composition of his cure, which is based on the

growth hormone somatostatin, appears to have temporarily slipped the 86-year-old Di Bella's mind.

On Thursday, a book celebrating Di Bella's life and work is published which claims to reveal the "essence of this extraordinary man and why his cure represents a hope for humanity". There is certainly a book to be written about this extraordinary episode. How did a humble lecturer from the University of Modena, who taught physiology courses to students of natural sciences, biology and pharmacology from after the war until his retirement in 1984, become

one of the most sought-after cancer "doctors" in Europe?

Unsurprisingly, this book is not it. It claims that the doctors who investigated the treatment are part of a conspiracy - the simplicity and low cost of this treatment represents a threat to the medical establishment.

Professor McVie begs to differ. He says Dr Di Bella was consulted at great length before the trials and signed a document to say that he agreed with their design. Professor McVie also made a curious discovery. "We went through his case notes and he had treated 3,000 patients, 1,500 of whom didn't have cancer at all. Of the remaining 1,500, four showed evidence of improvement, but they had also had other treatment."

This book plays to the millions of people who want to believe in miracles, and for the doomsday doctors to be proved wrong. Dr Di Bella continues spreading his misguided message and publishers are happy to help him. There is only one thing worse than spreading false hope - and that is doing it again and again.

Di Bella - The Man, The Cure, a Hope for All, by Vincenzo Brancaccio: Quartet Books, £7

False hope is no hope

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

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14/10/98

Pipe and slippers? Pass me my running shoes

We're all living longer. But will we have the mental powers to actually enjoy our later years of leisure?

By Annabel Ferriman

Seventy-one-year-old Barbara MacArthur, who loathes all physical exercise, was tested on her mental and physical powers in an experiment on ageing last week. Unfortunately for the organisers, who wanted to show the importance of exercise in preserving strength, Mrs MacArthur emerged with flying colours.

"They said that I had the grip of a 17-year-old," says Mrs MacArthur, who lives in Cathays, Cardiff, and who is starting a full-time course in computing and mathematics in autumn. "Yet I eat all the wrong things and look the other way when exercise is mentioned. But it seems that I have done a lot of the right things unwittingly."

"I walk everywhere because I am too bored to wait for a bus, and have always carried heavy shopping and moved furniture, because I separated from my husband before my son was born 44 years ago and had to cope alone. I also looked after my elderly parents for 16 years," she adds.

Mrs MacArthur was one of 200 people who took part in the experiment, run by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and

We are living longer because the conditions we are exposed to today are less severe'

Research into Ageing, in a Cardiff shopping centre last week. The results of the experiment will be announced at the British Association's Annual Festival of Science at the University of Wales, Cardiff, tomorrow.

"Of course it is hard to get meaningful data out of a trolley of 200 volunteers over three days in a shopping centre," says Professor Pat Rabbit, professor of cognitive gerontology at the University of Manchester who will announce the results. "But, like Fanny and Johnny Cradock, I will have the results of something I prepared earlier."

Professor Rabbit's research into the cognitive abilities of old people (with a base of 5,500 volunteers), shows that individuals can retain their mental agility in certain areas and with practice, into extreme old age. It also shows that "most people trundle along to death with their wits still about them".

"Although the most reliable tests show a decline in cognitive function of 16 to 20 per cent after the age of 50, that means that we retain 80 per cent until death," he added.

His research is good news. It suggests the growth in those of pensionable age, from 10.7 million now to 11.8 million in 2010, may not be such a serious burden on the country's resources as was previously predicted.

In many ways, Mrs MacArthur is typical of today's older generation, in

that she is entering the "third age" in much better shape than her parents did. Her healthy condition bears out the latest research, which suggests that we are not just living longer, but staying healthy longer. A new generation, not of grey panthers, but of grey cheetahs is emerging.

The General Household Survey of 1996 showed that the proportion of elderly people who could not get about alone or manage household tasks had remained broadly constant since 1980, despite the ageing of the population. One-tenth say that they cannot walk down the road or get up and down stairs alone, and 16 per cent say they cannot do their own shopping.

Professor Tom Kirkwood, professor of biological gerontology at the University of Manchester, will discuss the reasons for this at tomorrow's conference. "Evidence suggests that people are reaching 85 in much better shape than previously, which is why the death rate among that age group is still falling. How long you live is determined by an interaction between genes and environment. Genes are important, but there is plenty of scope for lifestyle influences."

"We are living longer because the conditions to which we are exposed today are less severe than they used to be. We are enjoying better nutrition, less exposure to infectious diseases, and less physical stress."

Professor Kirkwood, who is responsible for much of today's thinking on ageing, has developed the "disposable soma theory". This says that we age because our bodies have evolved in such a way as to put only a limited investment into those cells (somatic, or body cells) that are not involved in reproduction.

Evolution's higher priority has been the germ cells, which are involved in reproduction and which have to be "immortal" to keep the lineage going. "The ageing process works through the life-long accumulation of damage to the body, rather than being clock-driven. Damage can occur in a number of ways, such as oxidation by free radicals, mutations and accumulation of faulty proteins. The body keeps repairing the damage for as long as possible, but eventually too much damage accumulates."

Professor Kirkwood says that in order to live longer we need to enhance the maintenance function of our body and reduce the damage to which our cells are exposed.

The fact that genes are important in determining longevity is good news for Mrs MacArthur, whose father and mother lived to 93 and 90 years respectively. She wants to live to a ripe old age because she has sole responsibility for her 44-year-old son, who is autistic. She took hormone replacement therapy for five years and has been told that her bone density is good. Now that she has been commended for her physical strength, she feels confident about her future. "I would like to become a computer programmer after I finish the course. I think life really begins at 71."



Doug Rufus, who ran the London marathon at 86, shows the way ahead

Phil Spencer

The babies at risk from the blues

Foetuses can be affected by antenatal depression – yet the condition gets little attention. By Lizzie Enfield

BELINDA MUNDY was happily married and living in her own home and, in theory, should have been delighted about her pregnancy. In reality, she was dogged by a depression that only lifted once her daughter was born. "I was in shock, I felt totally numb and just hoped it would go away. I nearly had a miscarriage at about 12 weeks and, although I don't like to say so now, I would have been relieved if I had lost the baby."

Studies have shown that one in 10 women gets depressed while pregnant. Statistics for postnatal depression are the same. Yet while the latter is a key area for research, the detection, prevention and management of antenatal depression are not part of standard clinical practice.

Belinda's pregnancy was unplanned, and she believes the shock may have contributed to her feelings. Christine (not her real name), on the other hand, had been trying for a baby for some time. "I thought when I got pregnant I'd be delighted but I was devastated. I felt as if having a baby was the worst

thing that could happen to me. I cried every day of the pregnancy and even when in labour I couldn't get out of my head the dread of having a baby."

Dr Vivette Glover, the head of the foetal and neonatal stress research unit at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, in London, is studying how the maternal mood affects the foetus. "Very little research has been done to find out how the mother's emotional state affects the baby. Yet there is a belief that it may do as much damage as smoking or drinking and that foetal stress syndrome should become a recognised condition."

Dr Glover believes there is increasing evidence to suggest that, if a mother is depressed or anxious, then the baby in the womb may suffer similar emotions. "When you are stressed or depressed there's a marked increase in the production of a stress hormone known as cortisol. It could be that this is passed on to the baby so that it also becomes stressed." Dr Glover also believes that a traumatic pregnancy may result in a more troublesome child...



A happier image of pregnancy

a result of the associated health behaviour of the mother. Sara Clement, a research fellow at Guy's Hospital, in London, points to studies "which show that women who are depressed tend to smoke more".

Christine is a prime example of someone who may have put her baby at risk by ignoring health advice. "I had such a bad attitude towards the baby that I didn't do any of the recommended things like taking folic acid or avoiding blue cheese. I don't smoke but I drink for the full nine months and I found it hard to relax. By the time it came to having the baby I was exhausted".

About one in three women who becomes depressed when pregnant goes on to develop postnatal depression. While it can be argued that postnatal depression is more problematic because the mother experiences it at a time when she faces exceptional demands, Ms Clement argues that antenatal depression is just as significant. "It's been shown that targeting women who are depressed when pregnant not only helps

them but may help prevent postnatal illness".

Perhaps one of the greatest stumbling blocks in treating antenatal depression is that admitting to negative feelings about the baby remains taboo. Belinda Mundy says: "At the beginning I told just about anyone who cared to listen how I was feeling but then I realised I was getting these bad reactions so I stopped. All the magazines and books make you feel as if you should be blooming – but I don't think you should be made to feel such a wicked person if you don't".

Dr Glover hopes that her research may encourage women to seek help early on in their pregnancies. "I don't want to scare women because, in most cases, they give birth to perfectly healthy babies. But if we can show that the emotional state of the mother directly influences the baby's mental and physical development then it will lend weight to the argument for earlier intervention to prevent depression in pregnancy. This should benefit both the mother and the baby."

A QUESTION OF HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED BY DR FRED KAVALIER

It's in the jeans

I HAVE developed a red, itchy rash below my navel. It disappeared when I was on holiday in the sun, but has now reappeared. What causes such a bizarre symptom?

Bizarre symptoms usually have bizarre causes, and I wonder if your rash is a skin allergy to nickel. If you wear jeans, the rash is almost certainly caused by an allergic reaction to the metal stud at the back of the waist. Try painting the stud with clear nail varnish and then cover it with a small piece of material over it. My bet is that the rash will disappear, though you may want to help it with some over-the-counter hydrocortisone cream for a few days.

How effective is the morning-after pill? I've used it three times and each time it has rescued me from a possible pregnancy. What is my chance of pregnancy if I use it again?

The morning-after pill (which is now correctly called "emergency contraception", because it can be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse) has a failure rate of about 2 per cent. That means that for every 100 women who use it, two of them end up pregnant. A new method of emergency contraception, using a single-hormone pill containing levonorgestrel, has a failure rate of less than 0.5 per cent, but is not yet licensed for emergency use, though doctors can prescribe it. It should be on the market within a year.

Emergency contraception may soon become much easier to obtain without a prescription, perhaps direct from pharmacists. The Government is under strong pressure to change the law so that women do not need to see a doctor before they use the pill.

I have just recovered from a painful attack of gout in my big toe joint. How can I prevent it happening again?

Gout summons up images of crusty old men who drink port and eat large quantities of red meat. But, in fact, it is usually not caused by either dietary or alcohol over-indulgence, although it does affect men more than women. Microscopic crystals of uric acid,

which form inside joints, cause acute pain and swelling and for some mysterious reason, the big toe is the commonest part of the body to be affected. Some drugs, such as diuretics, can cause gout, but frequently it just comes out of the blue. If you are getting frequent attacks, it can be prevented by taking allopurinol tablets, which reduce the amount of uric acid in the bloodstream.

My doctor says I have tennis elbow, even though I have not played tennis for 10 years. I can barely lift a saucer without suffering a terrible pain up and down my arm. This has been going on for six weeks and the only advice I have been given is to rest the arm. Is there no other way of helping it get better?

In my experience, tennis elbow hardly ever affects tennis players. It is caused by an injury to the spot just above the elbow where the "back-hand" muscles attach themselves to the upper arm bone. It can be brought on by movements that put a strain on these muscles – painting, carrying briefcases, repetitive action. It usually gets better if you can avoid the activity that caused it. If that fails, and you get tired of waiting, it may be possible to have a steroid injection into the tender spot; even that is not a guaranteed cure.

The left side of my face has suddenly begun to droop and I have been told that it is Bell's palsy. What is the cause of this? There are plenty of theories about what causes Bell's Palsy – a paralysis of the muscles of one side of the face – but no one knows for sure. It may be a virus infection of the facial nerve. Most people recover completely, although it can cause permanent weakness or paralysis of the face muscles in a few people. Steroid tablets are sometimes used to treat the condition, but they have not been proved to be effective.

Please send questions to *A Question of Health*, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182. Unfortunately Dr Kavalier cannot respond to individual inquiries.

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Gail Billups re-eduates her brain's balance system with a series of exercises at Southgate Tube station

Neville Elder

Spin doctors you can trust

It's making your head spin and it's highly unpleasant - dizziness is no joke. By Roger Dobson

Gail Billups's morning exercises on the platform at Southgate Tube station have made her something of a local celebrity. Each day she stares at the moving carriages of the train, waves her arms, and carries out a set of hand-eye coordination exercises. On the train, she goes through a second set of neck exercises and then reads a book until she feels sick.

This bizarre start to the working day for 36-year-old Gail is not another novel spiritual fitness regime, but a new treatment she has been prescribed for her dizziness.

A team of psychologists at University College, London, have found that many people who suffer with dizziness can reduce their problems with the help of a treatment designed to re-educate the brain.

New research suggests that one in four people in Britain suffers with bouts of dizziness, and that, for half of them, the episodes are severe enough to impinge on their everyday activities. As many as a quarter of all people who suffer dizziness also say they faint, and a third have anxiety symptoms too.

One of the obstacles to diagnosing and treating the condition is that the causes of dizziness are diverse, and can range from the trivial to the trivial, from inner ear problems, anxiety and allergy, to heart problems, cancer, and a delayed version of seasickness when the dizziness remains for up to a week after getting back on to dry land.

"Dizziness is a condition which makes a doctor's heart drop, because it can be caused by just about anything. A lot of the causes have no easy cure, and patients' fears about

dizziness prevent them from leading a normal life," says Dr Lucy Yardley, who led the research at UCL.

Dizziness is most frequently caused by a malfunction of the brain's sense of balance. At the heart of this system are three tiny, liquid-filled semicircular tubes in the inner ear, which act like spirit levels. These canals are positioned in three planes so that, whichever way the head is moved, one of the tubes will detect the movement and report back to the brain.

"The brain receives impulses from these balance organs in the inner ear, but it also receives information from other sensors too, including the eyes and what they see, and pressure receptors in the joints and muscles, which tell the brain which parts of the body are moving or in contact with the surface," says Professor John Birchall, professor of otolaryngology at Nottingham University.

It is when the brain starts to get different signals from the sensors that the problems of dizziness for many sufferers can occur.

Disorders of blood circulation are among the causes of dizziness. If the brain does not get enough blood, a feeling of light-headedness results. Many people get this feeling when they stand up quickly from lying down, but chronic sufferers get it much of the time.

Viral infections of the inner ear are another cause of dizziness, as are conditions involving the nerves, including multiple sclerosis. Allergies too, can bring on vertigo when sufferers are exposed to food or dust particles to which they are sensitive. Dizziness is also part of the motion sickness suffered by many when they travel by car, plane or ship.

"With seasickness, your brain is getting conflicting signals. On the one hand your balance system is telling you that the body is moving, but your eyes see the ship's bar in front of you and it is stationary relative to you. The brain wonders what is going on, and you get a sense of dizziness when these messages conflict," says Professor Birchall.

In the biggest research project of

its kind, Dr Yardley surveyed a large group of patients suffering from dizziness, and offered some of them a special trial programme.

"We looked at people whose dizziness might be caused by problems with the balance organ in the inner ear, which are very difficult to diagnose," says Dr Yardley.

The treatment regime offered is designed to re-educate the brain on interpreting the signals it is getting from the balance sensors. It is based on the theory that if there is a problem with the balance system itself, the brain can reprogramme itself.

"But the reprogramming occurs only if you do all the things that make you dizzy; that's the only way the brain can learn. But dizzy people, of course, tend to avoid the things that make them dizzy, so their brains don't have a chance to re-programme," says Dr Yardley.

She and her team gave the sufferers a four-times-a-day, five-minute exercise routine involving rapid head, eye and body exercises. After six weeks, patients who

had been given the special treatment were four times more likely than a control group of other patients to report improvements, and nearly 80 per cent said they felt better.

Gail Billups, who has been taking part in the treatment, traces her dizziness and inner ear problems back to an early age: "At school, I did a forward somersault and fell very odd - I found myself hanging on to the floor, trying not to fall off."

The symptoms disappeared for some time, largely because she avoided anything that triggered it.

"A few years ago, I was doing a lot of typing, and I also had a bout of flu, and suddenly my balance was all over the place. I was walking down the street as if I were on dope, and one day when I was lying on the bed, the ceiling started spinning around."

"People did all sorts of tests - I was spun round in a chair, had seismograms, and had electrodes stuck on my head. In one test they got me to shut my eyes and march on the spot. If you have perfect balance you walk up and down on the spot, but if one ear is stronger than the other, you will drift across the room."

She was eventually told that the canal in one of her ears wasn't working, but that there was little that could be done. "Then I found about this new treatment and I have been given these exercises that I carry out," she says. "They do look very bizarre to people on Southgate Tube, but as long as they are doing me good - and they are - I don't care."

"When I sit on the Tube I have to read a book until I feel queasy. It's sometimes a fine balance between stopping and being sick, but so far I haven't thrown up on any of my fellow passengers."

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEAD

How to reduce dizziness:
 • Avoid rapid changes in position, from lying down to standing up, and from side to side.
 • Avoid extremes of head movement.
 • Cut down on caffeine, salt and nicotine, which impair circulation.
 • Minimise exposure to stress, and anything to which you are allergic.
 • Always travel where your eyes will see the same motion that your ear and body feel - so

always sit in the front of a car, or go on to the deck of a ship to look at the horizon, or sit by the window in a plane.
 • Do not read while travelling.
 • Do not sit in a rear-facing seat.
 • Avoid strong odours and spicy food.

Taken from the American Academy of Otolaryngology's advice leaflet for dizziness sufferers

Let's put some first things last

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES
To get a first, you have to ignore what you think and keep your teachers happy

HOW IMPORTANT are exam results? The most prized trophy in our education system is a first-class degree at university but, "first in school, last in life?", that is the question.

There have been only three scientific studies addressing this specific issue, and they suggest that firsts do better in the short term, but two of them are flawed. The Kosher study merely proves that, a year after graduation, firsts are better paid and more likely to have a job than 2.1s, and so on down. But scientifically solid evidence on whether degree class predicts success throughout life is non-existent.

Anecdotes can be wheeled out to support any view. Of our present leaders, Tony Blair did not get a first, Gordon Brown and Mo Mowlam (and Cherie Blair) did. So what?

My own prejudice is that most first-getters are people who had an unhealthy impulse to please adults. At a young age they started seeing the world through their parents' eyes, transferred this to teachers and examiners and learnt how to give them what they wanted. To test this theory, a few years ago I conducted a study.

I researched the degree classes of the chairmen from the top 50 of *The Times* 1,000 top industrial companies in the years 1992, 1988 and 1978 to see whether there was any correlation between career success and degree class.

Of the 60 chairmen who had taken a graded degree at a British university, 14 (24 per cent) had firsts. Since only 8 per cent of graduates got firsts in 1955 (the average year when the chairman graduated) this was fully three times more than was normal for a sample of 60 men of that generation. Did I not like?

However, bless them, all but one of the chairmen that I spoke to (and a sporting 17 of them returned my call) felt that it was a lot of rot that firsts do better than the rest. Even the ones with firsts thought so, like Maurice Saatchi. He said: "A first proves only one thing: motivation. I worked until 1am or 2am every night, and every weekend in my final year. It gives you a head start, but that only lasts a couple of years."

When you look more closely at the results of my survey, nine out of the 14 took vocational degrees (engineering, business studies, computer science and so on). This may suggest that a first predicts career success only if it gives you a head start in that profession.

Equally significant, the proportion of firsts with vocational degrees who go into research is much lower than the overall average. Only 15 per cent of the various kinds of vocational firsts do further study, compared with the 39 per cent overall average.

Given that 39 per cent of all graduates who get a first go into academic research rather than join commerce, it is very possible that many of them do not have particularly distinguished careers.

In the Seventies, Professor Liam Hudson published a

number of studies showing that post-doctoral researchers with firsts were less successful than those with 2.1s and 2.2s. Given what it takes to get a first, this should not be surprising. To get one, you need to please your teachers, enjoy being supervised, and, ultimately, please the examiners. You must ignore what you think and concentrate on what they want.

To do research and succeed as an academic, you need the opposite: think originally, be highly self-motivated rather than craving constant praise.

Trainee accountants are more likely to be firsts (2.1s) than 2.2s (41 per cent) to pass their accountancy exams. But that does not prove that the ones with high degrees are more likely to get the top of those professions. A recent survey of 254 leading companies showed that 71 per cent thought exam results a poor guide to an individual's abilities at work.

Interestingly, people with exceptionally high IQs are no more likely to succeed in their careers than those in the above average, but not exceptional, category (with an IQ of around 120). A follow-up study of 400 Americans who had IQs of 150 or more (the average is 100) in childhood did not find that they had unusually successful careers for people of their class and educational background.

I suspect that it is a myth that first-getters are of superior originality. They work hard, they are ambitious, but that does not prepare them for success in their subsequent careers. In many cases, they peak too early, and their first is their last outstanding achievement. If so, we need to question the purpose of a system whose crowning glory is a first-getter.

But you may not agree and, to save you writing in, the answer to the question is yes, I did get a 2.2.

The paperback edition of Oliver James's book, 'Britain on the Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared with 1950 Despite Being Richer', is published by Arrow, price £7.99.

How your diet really can help you defy death

The role of nutrition in general healthcare has never been stronger. By Jerome Burne

I AM lying on my back watching a pulsing river of bright red run between shadowy black banks. It could be a clip from a programme about volcanoes, but it is in fact my gravity-defying blood, flowing through an artery to my brain.

It is amazing. I have an inkling of the thrill that a pregnant woman feels, hooked up to the same ultrasound machine, watching new life kicking and stretching in her womb. In my case, however, the purpose of this procedure is to estimate my chances of dying of a heart attack in the next 10 years.

Even though it's outwardly fit and healthy, it could happen. Alarming, about 50 per cent of heart attacks are unpredictable, without any of the obvious risk factors, such as smoking, being overweight or eating a particularly fatty diet. People can just keel over with no warning.

But what can you do? If you're convinced that your arteries look like the pipe in a water-softerner advert, there's the option of a pretty unpleasant procedure known as an an-

giogram, which involves anaesthesia and pushing fine wires up your arteries. But most of us prefer not to know about that.

Now there's an alternative. I have been undergoing part of a health-care package that may revolutionise medical procedures. First of all, no needles are involved; just a hand-held scanner moving up and down over the carotid artery on the side of my neck. Then, if my arteries had been packed with plaque - they are in fact as clear as the M1 at 4am - I could have had it gradually swept away by changing my diet, rather than blasting it with drugs.

What makes this unusual is that I was in Harley Street, and the person who was working the scanner and discussing such dietary arcana as anti-oxidants and essential fatty acids was a regular physician - a senior registrar at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital - who admitted to having had a total of six to eight hours of nutrition classes

throughout her entire medical training.

"The medical profession still isn't very hot on nutrition," said 23-year-old Dr Beverly Carey. "The philosophy is still that you wait until people get really ill, then you zap them with surgery and drugs."

However, Beverly, who has just had a baby and is glowing with health, together with her equally fit-looking husband, Dr Adam Carey, have become converted to the value of clinical nutrition, and recently opened the Natural Health Clinic.

Adam's conversion happened after his father had major surgery, following a stroke.

"He wasn't recovering properly," he explained. "Normally after three months you're as good as you're going to get, but he could barely walk 400 yards. We thought there was nothing to lose by adding extra nutrients to his barrage of medication. Eight months on, he was covering three miles a day."

For Beverly, the conviction that conventional medicine is missing out on something important came with her pregnancy. "I ate well and got all the right nutrients, and I just sailed through it." So what, the sceptics could say. Adam's father might have been a bit slower at healing than normal, and Bev-

ery's pregnancy could have been a doodle anyway. The point is that these are not isolated experiences.

"When we started looking at the literature we were amazed at how much good evidence there is for the effectiveness of nutritional medicine," she says. "For instance, time and again studies show that nutritional support for osteoporosis is effective, but these measures just haven't been assimilated into the mainstream."

And the data keeps coming in. A major study last year showed that large amounts - compared with the recommended daily intake - of vitamin E protects against heart attack. Another study showed that taking selenium regularly reduces the chances of developing cancer. The general public seem quite keen on this approach too. About 25 per cent of us regularly take extra vitamins or supplements, but in a pretty haphazard way.

"People take enormous care with their clothes, getting the right size and style," says Adam, "but when it comes to nutrition they often opt for a one-size-fits-all approach, and take a general supplement. We all have different nutritional needs at different times of our lives. Your basic metabolism, your

age, how much stress you're under can all affect what is appropriate. A pregnant woman needs more iron, while someone approaching middle-age may need extra coenzyme Q 10 because production drops off as we get older."

At the clinic, after seeing a regular GP, you will have a consultation with a clinical nutritionist, who will draw up a plan that is right for you.

"Our aim is to integrate clinical nutrition with mainstream medicine," says Beverly. "A nutritionist should have the same sort of relationship with a GP as a midwife does with an obstetrician. Ultimately, what we are doing should all be available on the NHS."

Because of their medical background, the Careys have ensured that the clinic has access to a range of sophisticated tests. Besides the ultrasound, they can test your adrenal function and bone density and analyse blood and sal-



A blocked artery spells danger Science Photo Library

S.A.D.?
SAD is Seasonal Affective Disorder or Winter Depression. For an information pack about SAD and details of light therapy and our exclusive HOME TRIAL system, please get in touch.

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16/10/98

Some
gs lastBRITAIN ON
THE COUCHLIVER JAMES
I get a first, you
be to ignore what
u think and keep
it teachers happyset of studies showing that
doctors and other health
workers have been more
than willing to do what
they wanted. Given
that it is not unusual for
doctors to refuse to treat
patients who are not
able to pay, it is hardly
surprising that they
would be willing to do
what they wanted.

Such stories have sparked surprise at the apparent transformation of Auntie's listings lapdog into a rabid hound unafraid to snap at its mistress's ankles. But, the magazine insists, it's just doing what it always has done - embodying many of the BBC's core values.

Such as? Honesty, trustworthiness, authority and reliability, says Nick Brett, publishing group director of BBC Worldwide, and a former editor of the magazine. "Both are national institutions people still believe in," he explains.

"Although I think that often we understand and portray BBC values better than the BBC does itself, we are far more focused and speak with one voice."

That voice, however, has undoubtedly changed in recent years. True, Radio Times's purpose is the same as always: to tell viewers what's on and when in an entertaining way.

But, as the magazine prepares to celebrate its 75th birthday later this month - the same week that Sky launches digital TV in the UK - it is easier to show that it is anything but over the hill.

Not that that takes much proving. Radio Times, you see, is the most profitable magazine in Britain - and the BBC's richest single source of revenue after the licence fee.

ath

S.A.D!

MEDIA

The UK's first listings magazine is more famous these days for making the news. Not bad for a 75-year-old. By Meg Carter

There's a pitbull inside Auntie's lapdog

In recent months Radio Times has made a habit of making news. Headline-grabbing editorial includes Ben Elton's rubbishing of Cool Britannia, Fay Weldon's claim that rape is not the worst thing that can happen to a woman and Anna Ford's criticism of BBC bosses.

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From its first edition (top left) to the present day, Radio Times has been a big earner for the BBC



With a weekly readership of 1.4 million people, it turned over £90m last year. The figure is all the more staggering when you consider that this is five times the amount 10 years ago, when the magazine's sales were twice as high.

"Radio Times has always been the BBC's cash cow," Brett explains.

This, however, was almost its downfall.

Radio Times was created by Lord Reith a year after the launch of BBC radio broadcasting. Newspapers were offered programme listings for the fledgeling service but claimed that they would publish only for a fee. "They saw radio as a threat and were eager to strangle it at birth," Brett explains.

Reith responded by launching his own publication, the UK's first listings magazine, a year later.

"Hello everyone!" declared the director of programmes, Arthur R. Burrows, in true Cholmondeley-Warneresque style, in the first edition in September 1923.

"We will now give you the *Radio Times*." Issue one featured a heady mix of listings, listeners' letters, gossip about "artistes" and "wireless humour".

Alongside advertisements for valves and crystal sets nestles a book promotion for *Manhood - The Facts of Life Presented to Men* (topics include "Father's Responsibility" and "The Moral Training of Youth"). Meanwhile in the Wireless Wisdom column is the following entry from the Rev BWB Matthews: "Have you ever known an ascetic man who had lots of men pals? I haven't."

Until the birth of ITV in the Fifties, *Radio Times* enjoyed a listings monopoly with sales top-

ping 10 million copies a week. But even when the young ITV companies developed their own title, *TV Times*, *Radio Times* held the upper hand. Newspapers were allowed to carry only one day's listings, or two on a Saturday.

While *TV Times* had exclusive rights to publish commercial television's weekly schedules, *Radio Times* retained the exclusive rights to publish the BBC's schedules - so the poor old consumer had to buy both magazines.

The years of Thatcherism brought things to a head, however. By the late Eighties, the threat of listings deregulation and new competition was looming. In anticipation of this, the BBC recruited Brett from *The Times* to turn the title around. It meant a fundamental culture change.

The magazine that he inherited in 1988 had just 10 pages of colour, rambling listings and a preponderance of advertisements for such things as haemorrhoid treatments and stair lifts.

Until then it had been managed

by BBC mandarins with content agreed by committee and covers decided by whichever programme that week needed a particular push. Programme producers had copy clearance.

For the first time, the editor was given editorial control although, Brett admits, it took some people a little time to get used to, "It felt like Mao Tsé Tung and the long march," he smiles. "One famous drama producer said: 'I am going to rattle the bars of your cage, young man.'" And Brett's offence? To run his own choice of picture on that week's cover.

New aims were agreed: to do the best listings to develop an attitude", and to make the overall package as good as any consumer magazine. And, above all, to put the reader first, says the current editor, Sue Robinson.

High-profile columnists were quickly signed up - including Polly Toynbee, Barry Norman and Andrew Duncan. And the decision was made to move *Radio Times* away from being "all things to all people"

in favour of an unashamed pursuit of upmarket, above-average-income readers.

The strategy paid off when, in 1991, the TV listings market was deregulated - all titles could carry all listings, and a variety of young contenders entered the field. As its competitors fought for the mid-market, *Radio Times* clung on to the higher ground. It lost readers, but was able to charge higher rates to advertisers wanting to reach its more affluent readership.

In spite of this, perception of the magazine lags behind reality. Robinson claims: "We've long stopped being the BBC's house organ." She's not joking. For the past year, *Radio Times* has employed its own full-time press officer to promote upcoming features to the national press, including, at times, those which are critical of BBC bosses. "Management has no direct impact on what we do now," adds Brett. "We've brought home the bacon - they have a profitable, award-winning magazine they can be proud of."

Independence, however, is relative. While *Radio Times* is now directed by editorial instinct honed by regular reader research, cover shots are reserved for BBC productions. "While we provide listings for many different channels, our readers are those most likely to watch BBC-style programmes," Robinson explains. "It's a natural bias." Even so, she admits that BBC channel controllers would be less than happy to run promotional trailers if issues sported cover shots promoting ITV. Attenions are now focused on developing the next generation of readers and meeting the challenges posed by the rapidly expanding broadcast arena. The year-old website includes a club for budding journalists aged under 15 - there are now 70,000 members. Meanwhile, Robinson and Brett are fine-tuning the title's digital strategy.

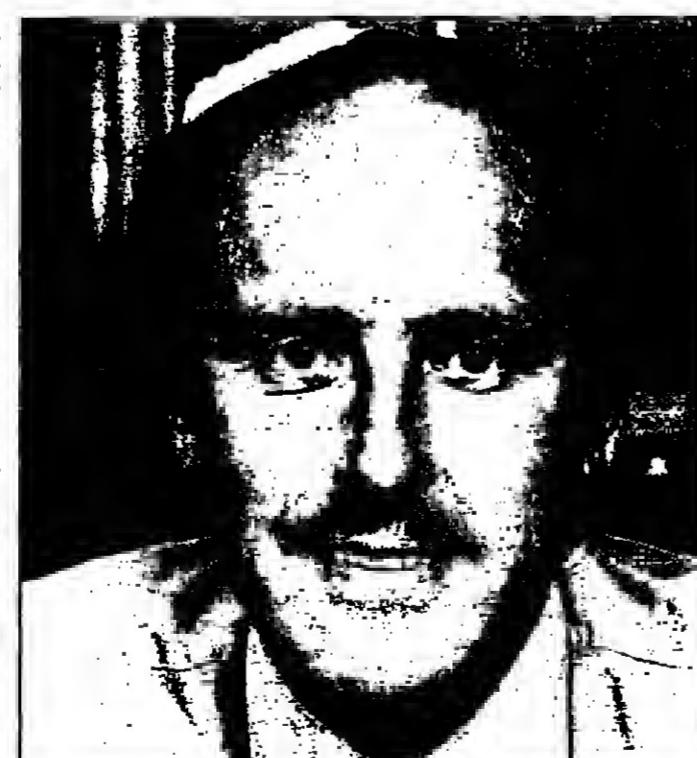
While the magazine will remain a selective guide catering for the specific tastes of upmarket viewers, the *Radio Times* website will be positioned as the definitive TV listings guide. "We don't want the magazine's coverage to race too far ahead of its readers," says Robinson. Next month sees the launch of *Radio Times*-branded *Behind The Scenes of...* books - the first is on *Vanity Fair* - and a *Radio Times* TV comedy guide. Meanwhile, work is underway to compile a database of *Radio Times*-originated movie information to be published as a film and video guide. *Radio Times*' masthead TV programme returns to the satellite channel UK Style in the new year. And discussions continue with broadcasters over a planned *Radio Times*-branded electronic programme guide.

"When I stop and think, I can't help being amazed at what we have achieved," says Brett. That a BBC magazine can advise viewers that the best thing to watch on a particular night is on ITV or Channel 4 is a precious achievement, he believes. "The day we're gagged and not allowed to say what we want to say, I'll go back to working for Rupert Murdoch."

ANALYSIS

PAUL MUKHERJEE

Who are Dacre's readers?



Paul Dacre's success in bringing in readers may have weakened Lord Rothermere's hold on the paper

IT IS very strange how owners judge success. Take Kenny Dalglish and Newcastle. He comes in after Keegan, they stop giving away goals, they get into Europe and are runners-up in the most prestigious cup in the country, yet he gets fired for not playing sexy and exciting football.

After reading an interview in *The Daily Telegraph* given by the late Lord Rothermere, Paul Dacre is probably hunting out the dour Scot for a consolation beer.

It was Lord Rothermere's contention that the *Daily Mail* had gone downmarket. The paper had become too salacious in its attempts to generate sales and that battle to overtake the *Mirror* was being fought at too costly a price in terms of the *Mail's* position. As with Dalglish's record, this needs a second glance.

The last decade has been very difficult for the printed word. Total circulation of combined national papers has gone from 32 million copies a week in 1989 to 28 million a week by the end of 1997.

This broad trend is the product of a collection of small everyday decisions that consumers make that inevitably ends with a lost newspaper sale. Things such as: "I don't take a tea break; I drive to work; what's to read? I saw it on the telly" etc.

Lord Rothermere's remarks seem somewhat unfair when viewed in this light.

As the *Mail's* competitors have taken on water and manned the lifeboats with women and shareholders at the front of the queue,

Associated has sailed on majestically. Its share of the circulation market has grown from 11 per cent in 1989 to 16 per cent in 1997.

Lord Rothermere's contention that this circulation has been achieved at a cost doesn't seem to bear analysis either. As the circulation of the *Mail* has grown so has the paper's attraction to those people advertisers are desperate to target.

The *Mail* has had more ABs and senior businessmen since Paul Dacre took the helm of the paper. It had 1.16 million ABs when he took over and this has risen to just under 1.47 million. Some 20 per cent of all chairmen, chief executive officers and managing directors reading newspapers took the *Mail* when Dacre took over; this has now risen to 22 per cent.

If the *Mail* has become the Clapham omnibus it has filled it with more upmarket passengers, and it is this which is supplying the profit of the present.

As all newspaper groups have restructured their companies, cutting workforces from thousands to hundreds, so financial efficiencies have been passed back to the bottom line. What with the decrease in the cost of paper, distribution and printing, so a greater percentage of the cover price has become profit. This is the strongest media performer in the market.

So why the disquiet over the quality of the paper?

Lord Rothermere was one of the last great paper tigers, a man who was part of the making of mid-

market tabloids. He wasn't scared to get his hands dirty as he showed with the *Standard's* battle with Maxwell in London.

Perhaps for him the success of the *Mail* actually meant the loss of control for himself.

A big broad paper has to reflect the views, values and tastes of the reader at the expense of those of the owner. It changes the owner's

power to just economic power.

Rothermere's contention that Dacre has massed with the core values of the paper and that the *Mail* has gone "too far down-market" with "too much tabloid reporting" is probably true. It's what the market and the readers have demanded of, at the very least, feel comfortable with. But this has not cost the paper in terms of the profile of its readership. Another way to ask the question is: how successful would the *Mail* have been if it hadn't adapted to this changed market?

The bigger issue for the future will not revolve around the success of the *Mail*. It will probably have more to do with the failure of its competitors.

If the newspaper market carries on deteriorating at its present rate, the loss of overall audience it supplies will mean that more and more advertising money will look to find another home. Radio and posters have had an amazing couple of years driven by the retail, financial and motoring industries. Newspapers have cut their operation to the bone and are now probably as profitable as they are going to get - so advertising revenue will become the life blood of the market.

If this money dissipates to other media, we won't be looking at a market of winners and losers but instead a market that will have lost altogether.

Paul Mukherjee is press buying director of the media buying agency, Mindshare

THE WORD ON THE STREET

RATHER AS

Kremlinoologists once watched the line-up on Lenin's tomb for the May Day parades to establish who was on the up in the Soviet Politburo, so from small details can you see how power relationships change at the BBC. The corporation's efforts to secure Trevor McDonald for *Nine O'Clock News* were led by Alan Yentob (right), the director of television, and Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast. Strange that they should be making these approaches and not Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News. But then posting for position, always a BBC manager's main hobby, is now likely to go into overdrive in the run-up to the appointment of a new Director General in the Spring of 2000.

One crucial move in the great DG game starts this month with the selection process for a successor to Ron Neil, BBC Production's chief executive. Mr Hall may go for it to prove he can do more than news, otherwise Jane Bennett, director of production and Neil's deputy would have a clean run. David Docherty, deputy director of television, Mark Byford, director of regional policy and anyone else on the next rung down are likely to throw their hats into this CV-boosting ring.

Harmsworth, in the approaching musical chairs the *Standard*'s John Steafel, the *Mail's* associate editor (news), may join Dunn as his deputy. As Paul Dacre becomes God-emperor of all he surveys Peter Wright is tipped to be effective editor of the *Mail*.

Adding to the gossip has been the sight of Tessa Hilton, former Mirror Group and Express magazines editor, in the Associated building.

FOOTBALL FANS should not be fooled into thinking that Manchester United is Mr Murdoch's first direct foray into running a Premiership club. According to Chris Horrie's book *Sick as a Parrot*, about the battle between Robert Maxwell and Alan Sugar to own Tottenham, Sugar got involved only after a call from Murdoch - for whom Sugar's Amstrad made satellite dishes. Just as he was getting ready to tie up his Premiership deal Murdoch asked Sugar to "Stop the fat clown" getting Tottenham. It is interesting that Sugar is now planning to get out of football at a time that Murdoch no longer needs a point man within the Premier League.

Relegating Old Trafford to a game show

It is Murdoch's vision to turn Manchester United into the ultimate cash machine. By Jonathan Miller

Ten years ago, in the back of a limousine, I asked Rupert Murdoch, then my boss: "Why don't you buy Manchester United?" At the time, the ownership of the club was in play, and it subsequently fell into the control of Martin Edwards. This was before he turned Manchester United into a merchandising colossus and public company, for which British Sky Broadcasting is now offering £565m.

Murdoch did not act on my advice and buy the club in 1988, even though he would have saved himself more than £500m had he done so. I am left merely a prophet without profit. To be fair, Murdoch did have another matter on his mind at the time, launching Sky Television, a gamble that almost cost him his company.

What took him so long? In exactly three weeks, Murdoch is launching digital television in Britain. His "battering ram", as he calls it, to drive sales both of dishes and to kick-start subscriptions, is as ever sport. BSkyB is already creating a private television station for Manchester United. Buying the whole club now offers him not only a seat at the high table of the world's richest sport, and at a crucial moment with talk of new leagues, but also a pay-per-view television business to drool for - a "virtual" Old Trafford of unlimited seating.

Murdoch enrages. A decade ago, launching Sky, Murdoch was accused of destroying the delicate ecology of British broadcasting (in fact, he unleashed an explosion of competition). Then, when BSkyB bought the exclusive rights to televise football's new Premier League, there were dire warnings that this would destroy the national game as we knew it (in fact, his money paid



Manchester United are not just on camera, they are playing in a television studio with attached supermarket

David Ashdown

for the game to reinvent itself. Now, the alarm bells are ringing again. What is at stake is more than mere commercial imperative, it is argued. If Murdoch buys United, it would threaten the soul of football. And the arguments are not just sentimental. It is perfectly obvious that Murdoch's aim is to monopolise top-level football, and the Government must stop him. But how?

Notwithstanding the dramatic intervention on Sunday of Tony Banks, the sports minister, who angrily demanded that the deal be scrutinised for competition implications, this is an issue that the Government will not relish deciding. It is therefore certain that it will pass the ball to the Office of Fair Trading, and ask it to examine the deal in the light of the new Competition Act.

Emotion aside, to have any hope of stopping this deal, Murdoch's opponents need to address a specific point: just what is the substance of what we knew it (in fact, his money paid

the competition problem here, if any? Emotion and woolly thought won't do.

On Sunday, as this story broke, critics advanced what can only be called the "stranglehold" argument. The term was first used in the *Sunday Telegraph*, which quoted a senior Labour backbencher as saying that the deal would give Murdoch a "stranglehold" on sport in this country".

This theme was repeated by the BBC, which quoted, among others, the *Sunday Telegraph's* own sports editor Colin Gibson. Mr Gibson was reported to have said that there was no doubt that the deal would give Mr Murdoch a "stranglehold" on English football. Later in the day, I read on the Internet a story from the news agency AFP reporting from London that the deal would give Murdoch a "stranglehold" - without quoting anyone at all.

Unfortunately, while strangle-

holds are scary, the term is not one with much economic or legal meaning. Some improved arguments were being advanced in various newspaper columns yesterday. The best of these so far is the apparent problem that Murdoch could be negotiating on both sides of the battle for football television rights. These arguments are, I suspect, where the battle will be fought.

Critics have another burden: Murdoch will have plenty of arguments of his own. Making them will be his formidable chief economist and global troubleshooter, Dr Irwin Stelzer. He has a formidable story to tell: BSkyB is risking hundreds of millions in a gigantic gamble. It is creating thousands of new jobs.

And just why should Murdoch not buy a source of sports programming just as he owns a film studio that sells its products to his television stations? Can it really be unfair competition if Murdoch has a seat in the

councils of the Premier League? There are after all 19 other Premier League teams, hence Murdoch's vote is only 5 per cent; other media companies can buy clubs, too, and many already have. Are all the other football chairmen patsies?

As for the fans, Dr Stelzer can argue (as *The Sun* already has) that they can only benefit, as the burden of buying new players and improving facilities is shared by those watching on television.

Furthermore, there is plenty of precedent for this deal, both in Britain and globally. The late Robert Maxwell, formerly proprietor of Mirror Group Newspapers (and a shareholder in this one) owned Oxford United. In Europe, the merger of media and sports teams is an old story. Silvio Berlusconi built his television empire alongside AC Milan (and Milan repeatedly won both Italy's Serie A and the European Cup with the players his money

brought). In America, Ted Turner turned a marginal station in Atlanta into a "superstation" by putting it on a satellite and broadcasting the games of his own baseball team, the Atlanta Braves. Murdoch himself, of course, owns American baseball and basketball teams.

Like it or not, Murdoch is showing the way to a radical new synchronicity of sport and media. We may deplore this, but not so as to stop it from becoming a template for 21st century entertainment. It is Murdoch's vision (but not his alone) that colossal pay-per-view revenues will turn sporting arenas into the ultimate money machines. This will occur regardless, and not just in Manchester. Old Trafford and the other great stadia in Britain may be hallowed turf for the faithful, but in the age of digital media, a football ground is a television studio with attached "superstore", whether Murdoch owns it or not.

The strategy of the Murdoch

parties is clear: get United fans

on board by promising so much

money that they can have every

player they ever wanted.

"For United fans to rail against the takeover is like lottery winners covering their ears when Camelot rings," said The Times. "It is for the rest of football to worry."

It is also something for the rest of journalism to worry about.

PATRICK McCANN

What is the truth behind 'News at Ten' becoming a tea-time programme? Here Richard Eyre and Gerald Kaufman argue the matter out

Bong! Here begins - Bong! a brave new era

LOOK UP ITV's Monday night schedule for September 1987 and it will look reassuringly familiar - the regional news between 6pm and 7pm; *Coronation Street* at 7.30pm; *World in Action* followed by drama and at 10 o'clock, of course, *News at Ten*.

Yet the broadcasting environment has changed beyond recognition in those 31 years. The competition we face has grown dramatically and with the launch of digital transmission it will become even more intense.

So the question for ITV is how to preserve a market-leading position when the market is in not so much flux, as convulsion. It's a scale of change that provokes fundamental reappraisal - with no taboos. After 31 years, of course, there are strong views and deeply held personal preferences and I wouldn't want it any other way. The fact that the Prime Minister should express a point of view on the scheduling of a TV programme signifies the saliency of ITV in our culture. But the question now facing us is a bigger one than the scheduling of particular programmes - it's how to preserve that salinity in a new broadcasting era.

First, a few facts to concentrate the mind:

• Between 1994 and 1997, ITV's peak time share declined from 44.3 per cent to 38.8 per cent.

• The 9.30pm-10pm segment is the biggest half hour in British television. Any competitive broadcast must make the most of the inheritance from this peak volume of viewers. Yet from January to May this year, 27 per cent of the audience tuned to ITV in this peak segment tuned out at 10pm; that's nearly three times as much as the percentage drop for total television viewing. Thirty-seven per cent of our younger viewers defected at the same time.

• This is not because *News at Ten* is not a good programme. In my view it is by some way the best news programme on television, but viewers' behaviour suggests that the appetite for news at 10pm is not as



By opening up a 10pm slot we can inject new vigour and variety

great as for other forms of programming.

No decent business would ignore this kind of loss, especially when faced with an explosion in competition. Feisty and decisive management action is needed, even if it costs us some friends in the short term. ITV's economy is a simple one. Large, high-quality audiences beget advertising revenue. Advertising revenue enables future investment in quality programmes, which beget large and high-quality audiences.

Allow the audiences to drift away and the cycle would become a spiral. We have a strong public service remit, monitored by the ITC, which costs money to fulfil - more than £200m in 1998, £750m of it in originally home-produced programmes.

Allow the spiral to begin, and ITV's ability to sustain that kind of investment will cease.

By opening up a 10pm weekday slot, we can inject new vigour and variety into our schedule by effectively extending our peak time. There is, of course, a cost to this which is being borne by our shareholders as an investment in the future market position of ITV.

It's a calculated risk. We are a



Trevor McDonald, the nation's favourite newsman, will front the new programme Bill Kennedy

commercial network, so we do have responsibilities to the many people whose pensions are invested in ITV companies, but the good news is that their interests are not at odds with those of the viewer.

This is because advertisers - our customers - don't want to buy "lowest-common-denominator" audiences; so we have no commercial interest in supplying sheer volume of numbers at the expense of the composition of our audience. Our commercial imperative is in fact to push ITV upmarket and to appeal to younger discerning viewers. There are many more complaints on these nights than on the occasions when we shift the news.

The proposed change in the architecture of the schedule opens up the late evening for new, high-quality programmes, including the hour-long current affairs programme commissioned last week from Granada Television and planned for transmission in 1999.

This will be made in conjunction with ITN and anchored by Trevor McDonald, the country's favourite

newsperson. It will be supplemented by a stream of 60-minute documentaries commissioned for 10pm, and comedy and drama from new writers more appropriate for a later evening slot.

ITV is a regionally based television channel. We're proud of that and consider it to be a competitive advantage in these days of increasingly similar national channel launches. 29 versions of ITV cater daily for individual regional interests - and this will not change.

Broadcasting must be the most competitive market in the UK. All our competitors, including the BBC, have the flexibility to adapt their schedules to compete as they see fit. I hope it is not unreasonable to request the same degree of flexibility in the interests of a vibrant ITV. The end of *News at Ten* does, I agree, mark the end of an era. But eras end, and commercial organisations that fail to notice, end too.

Richard Eyre is chief executive of ITV

Pallid placebos that invite a stern rejection



They want rid of this incubus which is so deleterious to the god of ratings

that the public service ethic was safe, if not safer, in ITV's hands.

Yet now Channel 3's public service flagship programme, *News at Ten*, will, if ITV has its way, be re-routed to the tea-time exclusion zone. Of course, as in all exclusion-zone strategies, a smokescreen is being propagated. All kinds of goodies are promised, provided that *News at Ten* can be obliterated. There would be one-minute bulletins to cover breaking news. There would be a *News at Ten* on ITV2. A current affairs programme would be transmitted once a week, and there would be a 30-minute bulletin on Channel 3 at 11pm. If the word disingenuous did not exist, it would have to be invented for these pallid placebos.

There is no doubt about the ITC's rights with regard to *News on Channel 3*. It has absolute power to prevent *News at Ten* being shifted. The last time that shift was attempted, the admirable Sir George Russell, then chairman of the ITC, squashed it flat. Will his successor, Sir Robin Bigg, do the same?

Gerald Kaufman MP is chairman of the Culture, Media and Sport Parliamentary Select Committee

how
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e 'Sun'

LGT scene in The
West End on Sunday.
I have been told to
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estimated four million. The
best to find four fans

behind trolley did not
so well. Only the
outfield analyst and
presenter Zoe Ball
had a laugh in an
estimated: "Stars and
the best to find four fans

not take any deep
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er played by Rupert

's British newspapers.

est to every other title

The Sun and The

are the only papers not

a likely opposition to

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TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent, 8 September 1998

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NEW FILMS

HANDS (AKA PALMS) (PG)

Director: Artur Aristakisian

The director of this harrowing semi-documentary has been compared to Pasolini and Tarkovsky; the press notes assure us, but though this is an imaginatively realised rumination on the workings of the modern world, the picture is deadening in a way that those directors' best work never was. The film is simple and precise in its methods; as images of downtrodden and forgotten citizens - amputees, beggars, the very young, the elderly - are played out before us in a moving collage, a man narrates a message to his unborn child, who may be being aborted even as he speaks.

West End: *Renoir*

HE GOT GAME (18)

Director: Spike Lee

Starring: Denzel Washington, Ray Allen, Miles Jovovich

The plot of Spike Lee's middling tale is pure poppycock: Jake Shuttleworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife, but is offered a deal that could cut short his sentence. It has come to the attention of the Governor that Jake's son, Jesus (Ray Allen), is the country's hottest new basketball star if Jake can convince Jesus to sign with the Governor's alma mater; then he can look forward to an early release. Jake agrees, and is dispatched into the outside world on this errand. However, there is one seemingly insurmountable obstacle in Jake's path - his son has vowed never to forgive him for his mother's murder.

West End: *Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero*

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Director: David Leland

Starring: Catherine McCormack, Rachel Weisz, Anna Friel, Steven Mackintosh

This gentle comedy from David Leland (director of *Wish You Were Here*) leads us into familiar territory, but manages to infuse the experience with warmth and wit. Rachel

Weisz, Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but nicely done.

West End: *Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

Director: Whit Stillman

Starring: Chloe Sevigny, Kate Beckinsale, Chris Eigeman

In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty, and pockets of glitter fall from the ceiling even as the club is being busted by cops. But you couldn't accuse the picture of being nostalgic - as with Stillman's previous films (*Metropolitan* and *Barcelona*), actions and emotions unfold with a knowing wink toward the future.

West End: *ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

SPECIES II (18)

Director: Peter Medak

Starring: Michael Madsen, Natascha Horsting, George Dzundza

Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of deadly alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. Cornball dialogue and a healthy abundance of sex and violence make this passable B-movie fun.

West End: *Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one.

Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes dons the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a cat suit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kit as August De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. *Armageddon* is a bit of a mess.

Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer; an endurance test for anyone else.

Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such bravado that its lack of originality is never a problem.

ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Dismal period drama in which feminist writer Madeleine Stowe and priest Kenneth Branagh become entangled after she discovers her fat-husband (William Hurt) is unable to father a child. Salacious tosh.

ABC Pantown Street

Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*.

Odeon West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warners' new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Celene Dion, sounds - even cheerier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits.

Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

METROLAND (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*.

Virgin Trocadero

MR NICE GUY (15)

This largely disappointing addition to Jackie Chan's oeuvre has its moments - a fight scene on a construction site is a particular delight. But the combination of comedy and adventure doesn't get it to be the first Chan film that wouldn't even look good if you were plastered.

Virgin Trocadero

THE PROPOSITION (12)

Dismal period drama in which feminist writer Madeleine Stowe and priest Kenneth Branagh become entangled after she discovers her fat-husband (William Hurt) is unable to father a child. Salacious tosh.

ABC Pantown Street

THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)

The Real Howard Spitz, a sunny comedy about a children's writer (Kelsey Grammer, aka Frasier) who hates children, is director Vadim Jean's most likeable work. Originality may be thin on the ground but the direction is breezy and Grammer has a lovely, grumpy demeanour.

UCI Whiteleys

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also stylly funny.

Barbican Screen, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully and, for their first big-screen outing, get a meaty conundrum to chew on involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness.

ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *Star Wars* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them.

Empire Leicester Square (0171-437 1234) + Leicester Square Godzilla 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's over-long and deeply indulgent film of Nicholas Evans' novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help New York magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident.

ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high stakes card-game, falls into the former; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.

ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Arch, Odeon Swish Cinema

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Pleasing thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator; a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, tabs and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. Ultimately, the film feels a little shallow and self-consciously, but it puts a smile on your face for most of its duration.

Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS

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THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



ANOTHER CULT 1960s television series gets an expensive makeover; though *Lost in Space* (left) has managed to retain its original tone. Easily the best reason to view it is Norman Garwood's dazzling production design. Every surface seems spongey; tabletops appear soft enough to sink your fingers into. Rubber - and rubber effect - is very big in the future: the plates of the body armour look as if they would protect you from sexually transmitted diseases but, Kane's experimental nerve always commands attention.

Royal Court Theatre *Upstairs at the Ambassadors*, London WC2 0171-365 5000 7.30pm

That trusty moderniser the English Shakespeare Company unveils its *As You Like It* tonight, with director Michael Bogdanow promising a darker-than-average reading. The cross-dressing comedy will run in rep with *Antony and Cleopatra* before transferring to the Hackney Empire in October.

Salisbury Playhouse 01722 320333 7.30pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish



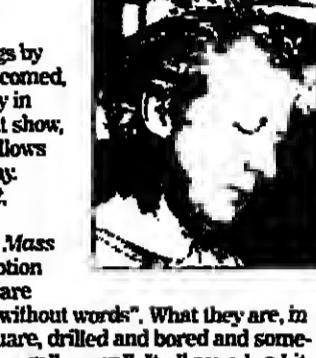
SARAH KANE'S (right) latest, *Crave*, just in from Edinburgh, is more poem than play; a 45-minute arrangement for four anonymous voices in which collisions between sound and sense present vertiginous glimpses of a sordid, urban narrative. The violent word swirl of attraction and repulsion can seem portentous, but Kane's experimental nerve always commands attention.

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Salisbury Playhouse 01722 320333 7.30pm

Art Richard Ingleby



A RETROSPECTIVE exhibition of drawings by the Scottish artist Jack Knox is to be welcomed, not least because his drawings, especially in ink, are far by his finest work. The current show, at the Cyril Gerber Gallery in Glasgow, follows Knox's career from 1956 to the present day. Cyril Gerber Gallery, 148 West Regent St, Glasgow 0141-221 3095 20 Sept.

Mark Firth's (right) first solo exhibition, *Mass and Symphony*, takes its title from the notion that his series of small aluminium cubes are "his symphony without sounds, his mass without words". What they are, in fact, is small aluminium cubes, 8in x 8in square, drilled and bored and sometimes drawn upon, arranged in groups on a gallery wall. It all sounds pretentious, but they have an odd, hypnotic quality that is well worth seeing.

Jill George Gallery, 38 Lexington St, London W1 0171-639 7343 from tomorrow to 9 Oct

Cinema James Rampton

ACCORDING TO Lily Savage's alter ego, Paul O'Grady, "Everyone has an auntie just like Lily, getting drunk at weddings and funerals."

Surprisingly, people are actually drawn to this loud-mouthed embarrassment. Following her TV success the "Blonde Bombsite" (right) is taking her show on the road. A word of warning: her live material is racier than the telly version.

Palace Theatre, Manchester 0161-242 2503

Boothby Grafeue is a booming presence on stage who wins audiences over through sheer force of personality. "I only have a good rapport with the audience because I haven't got any friends," he laughs. He is at The Cutting Edge tonight with Sean Meo, Martin Coyote and Paul Thorne.

Comedy Store, London SW1 0171-344 4444 8pm

CINEMA WEST END

The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm, The Last Days Of Disco 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm, 9.45pm The Spanish Prisoner 12noon, 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3332) + Bayswater Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.15pm Dr Dolittle 12noon, 2.15pm, 5.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm

The Horse Whisperer 12.35pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Lost in Space 1.10pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm

Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

The X-Files 12.20pm, 5.30pm

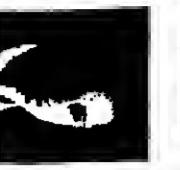
British
real ends deadly campa

TUESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

JASPER REES

TELEVISION REVIEW



EVEN HEAS THE one about the priest, the bent copper and the crack-addict? They found themselves in Liverpool One the first time. I must confess I laughed at the punchline which revealed that they all sprang from the same womb. The priest and the policeman, whom at this point you know only as acquaintances, were arguing over how to proceed. The drug addict, who had informed on a psychiatric consultant, 'he's your psychiatrist' screamed the priest. 'He's your brother too! said the policeman. You half expected one of Harry Enfield's perverted Scousers to step in and abduct him, calm down, calm down. It's only make-believe. Cattolican was spread across the first episode of Liverpool One like oil on water, morgue-like. It is from somebody been watching too much Jilly Goolden, and I assumed that by just racking her mouth from the prop cupboard you can create a drama of human moral complexity about her incomprehension of faith and the practical life. Into this gloomy cartoon left-footer stops Sammam Jones, or Sun, as she's calling herself, in the credits here, possibly to do a rechristening of Sammam. Was she ever so good? I mean, it's not only that she's queasy before the list of interests could be mentioned. The real oddity of Liverpool One is that while Jaws has been apart from her crew colleagues because she's on the 11th floor, plunging between tops and butts, it's a primaquine crippler, a case of heretic witchcraft, a case of heretic's solution. We've prepared and saved a little bit for others.

earlier never you mind how whole lot more profanity, like Fitz in Crocker, but a whole lot more subtlety, to solve cases by sheer intuition.

The murder weapon, with the help of a diving rod, and Detective Constable Isobel, a plainclothes officer from Essex with only the colour of her hair to go on.

De Paul is also from Essex, and suffers the same prejudice that all bottle-blondes from the

locality encounter; her creators just won't take her seriously.

'They've got a thorough horoscope than her character.'

While obnoxious is paid to the client that incoming cops must be bothered by their now most obnoxious and unfriendly reputation for toughness. It has given her: 'Do you want me to tell you how I could make your life hell?' she asks one thoughtless witness, and I work on my own. Even when the witness quaked before the

psychotic Dr Paul, he doesn't seem to be put off by her.

Psychology is a perfectly plausible discrimination, I suppose, but probably an expedient one. She'll undoubtedly be numbing a show and it starts to resemble

another *McCloud*, like his boyfriend who doesn't want to sleep with her. It's a form of pay-off, probably because she big

but she's a case of heretic's solution. We've prepared and saved a little bit for others.

10 PM

6.00 **Business Breakfast** (6/24/3) 7.40 **News** (1) (5/8/427)

8.00 **Kids** (S) (7/8/02/24) 8.40 **Breakers** (S) (1/28/82/4)

10.05 **Sat. News** (Regional News, Weather) (1) (5/17/77)

10.30 **Style Challenge** (S) (1/28/82/20) 11.25

Cat's Cook (Wom. Cook) (1) (5/7/77) 12.00 **Through**

(Regional News, Weather) (1) (7/8/78) 12.50 **The Weather Show** (S) (1) (5/6/78/2)

1.00 **News Weather** (1) (5/5/78/2) 2.10 **Near Neighbours** (S) (1) (5/28/82/2)

2.30 **Playday** (R) (S) (7/8/78/2) 3.30

Crashcourse (R) (S) (7/8/78/2) 4.30 **Gadget Boy** (R)

(S) (5/23/81) 5.30 **Breakfast** (S) (1) (5/28/82/2)

5.35 **Children's BBC Round the Twist** (R) (S) (1) (3/7/81/1)

5.45 **Newsworld** (S) (1) (5/8/82/3) 5.50 **Byker Grove** (R) (S) (1) (5/28/82/3)

6.35 **Neighbours** (S) (1) (5/8/82/2)

6.00 **News Weather** (1) (5/8/82/2)

7.00 **Holiday Heaven**, Celebs get free tips. The week, Armando Riesman reveals Durban and David Meller goes to Rawalpindi (S) (1) (2/7/81)

7.30 **EastEnders**, Some back. Tiffen, Gran and Louie turn and talk about the future (S) (1) (5/8/81)

7.30 **Home Ground**. Qualifying the detention of Stephen Downing for the murder 25 years ago of women he buried in Bakewell, Derbyshire (R) (S) (1) (5/7/81)

7.30 **CrimeLine**, The Upper Quat. Society photographer homes (S) (1) (5/13/81). See *Cockey Show* or *The Day*, below

8.00 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** (S) (1) (3/8/81)

8.30 **999 Baby Special**, Heartstrings tugged double-hard as those in need of resuscitation are also in need of nippies (S) (7/8/81)

8.00 **News Regional News Weather** (1) (7/2/81)

8.30 **Men Behaving Badly**, Gary suspects that Dorothy is having an affair (R) (S) (1) (5/23/81)

10.00 **Crimewatch UK**, Nick Rose and Jim Dando take picnic, perspectives of the risk of violence (S) (1) (5/23/81)

10.30 **Newswight** (1) (5/3/81/3)

10.30 **London Tonight** (1) (5/6/81/3)

10.40 **Chippendales & Secret History**, The TV show's background to the naked strip-room debate (S) (5/5/81). See Documentary of the Day, below

11.40 **Renegade** (S) (3/37/81) 12.40 **The Haunted Fishank** (6/8/82/6), 12.40 **Planet Rock** (S) (6/3/82/6), 1.40 **Best of British Motor Sport** (6/3/82/5)

2.05 **Emergency**, France Searle 100 UK. Small girl has rare blood type needs donor (6/7/82/7)

3.05 **Soundtrax** (S) (6/8/81/3), 3.25 **National Football League Extra** (S) (6/8/81/3) 4.20 **ITV Nightshift** 5.45 **Open University**: Living with Technology (6/8/81/7)

10.00 **News Weather** (1) (4/7/81/5)

10.30 **London Tonight** (1) (5/6/81/3)

10.40 **Chippendales & Secret History**, The TV show's background to the naked strip-room debate (S) (5/5/81). See Documentary of the Day, below

11.45 **Riding the Tiger** (R) (S) (5/5/81) 1.15 **Homelife** (R) (S) (5/6/81/3) 2.15 **Woman** (R) (2/8/82/6)

2.40 **ITV's The Third Secret** (Charles Crichton 1984) (S) (5/6/81/3) 3.15 **Survivors** (S) (6/4/82/6)

4.45 **Surveillance** (S) (6/4/82/6) To 7pm

5.55 **Seesame Street** (R) (S) (1/28/81/4) To 7pm

COOKERY SHOW OF THE DAY

THE UPPER CRUST (from BBC2, right) Early-evening programming has to combine the best two of the following to satisfy a British audience: food, gardening, interiors, sobriety, voyeurism and nostalgia. The new stand-seems-to-come every single programme. Society photographer and amateur Journalist Christopher Sykes takes us on a tour of our British status houses, cutting corners. As always, he has one of his own to teach the rest. Fortunately, he has one of his own to get the ball rolling. Sykes' last book, *Living with Technology*, is a young woman's guide to trouble with the authorities after her batchelor, apparently an amateur poisoner, gets his teeth pulled out. In his and parley sauce, and stoned cream.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

CHIPPENDALES: A SECRET HISTORY (top/bottom, TV) Although dominating talk about male strippers have been proliferating like unwashed chefs, theirs since The Fall of Monday, this is a more serious proposition: a reconstruction of something that started off as a satiric updating of a piece of fun degenerated into something else and, ultimately,

murderous. Launched by Steve Bannon in Los Angeles in 1978, the Chippendales rapidly became an international phenomenon, especially after character rapper Nicki Minaj joined in the Eighties. Then DeVona was murdered, and Bannon implicated.

FILM OF THE DAY

THE SYSTEMS (14/5pm Ca, right) In a day when the schedules are almost entirely dominated by TV movies and straight-to-video offerings, a single game stands out: Bettie Davis, married to an increasingly alcoholic Errol Flynn. Taken from a novel by Mervyn King, it opens with three sisters preparing for a ball to celebrate Flynn's second inauguration. Davis closes with the same ball four years later to welcome Tarz. In all three marry, suffer, and emerge triumphant, as is the way of *Degeneration* best-sellers. Davis, though, turns in one of the more charming of her early performances: tough, brittle and constantly cheerful through gritted teeth.

The Entertainment Channel

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ITV Carlton

Channel 4

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 8 September 1988

7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (S) (1) (4/13/7) 9.00 **Bawitched** (R) (5/4/82/7)

9.30 **Edith Moon over Miami** (Mabel Lane 1941 US).

Another slice of this mystifying Betty Grable obsession. Grable and girlfriends hope to win highly humurous by stamping around in platform shoes (T) (2/25/84/2)

11.40 **Breakfast** (T) (7/6/82/30) 11.30 **Moving People** (R) (5/1) (1944 US).

Debbie Reynolds saves the Pacific (E) (2/28/82/40).

12.00 **South East**, Regional news magazine (S) (1) (2/28/82/2)

1.00 **Weather** (1) (5/28/82/2)

1.30 **Working Lunch** (R) (5/28/82/2)

2.45 **News**: Local News: Weather (1) (5/28/82/2) 2.50 **Things** (R) (5/28/82/5) 3.25 **News**: Weather (1) (5/28/82/5)

3.30 **Classic Horrors** (R) (S) (5/28/82/5) 4.00 **Fifteen to One** (T) (5/28/82/3) 4.40 **Out of Sight** (R) (S) (5/28/82/5)

5.00 **Home and Away** (S) (1) (5/28/82/5)

5.40 **News Weather** (1) (5/27/82/5)

6.00 **Fresh Prince of Bel-Air**, Will Smith works his way to success (R) (S) (5/23/82/2)

6.25 **Hairbreak High**, Sami wants to take her relationship with Ryan to a higher plane. Not if not. Debrah is approached by a personal manager (S) (1) (5/28/82/5)

6.50 **London Tonight**, And weather (1) (4/27)

6.50 **Good Stuff**, Rowland Rivron and Wendy Douglas (with the showbiz file) (S) (7/7/82)

7.00 **Entertainment**, Kim and Steven robbery plan. Lord Michael has a surprise for Teri (S) (7/24/82/3)

7.30 **First Edition**, Headlines are on the loose, apparently. And so is Michael K. Williams

7.45 **Algeria Daily** (T) (3/27/82/6)

8.00 **In Your Dreams**, The profound affect dreams can have on people's lives. Narrated by Robert Lindsay (T) (2/26/82)

8.30 **King of the Hill**, Early evening slot for the wonderful emulated suburban propane salesman. Social services (S) (1) (7/5/82/5)

8.30 **Police, Camera, Action!**, A couple along on the motorway, a woman does her make-up at 8pm, plus what to do if your car catches fire (R) (S) (7/27/82)

9.00 **Brookside**, What has Ollie told the police? Will Peter ever come back to Lindsey? Jequel is rushed to hospital amid questions about the baby (S) (7/30/82/5)

9.45 **Equinox**, Gravely one of the last fundamental forces to discover, but the least understood, despite the fact that it holds our bodies together and determines the shape of the Earth. And, it turns out, it could eventually destroy it as well (T) (5/7/82/5)

10.00 **News Weather** (1) (4/7/82/5)

10.30 **London Tonight** (1) (5/6/82/3)

10.40 **Chippendales & Secret History**, The TV show's background to the naked strip-room debate (S) (5/5/81). See Documentary of the Day, below

11.45 **Nightmare in Paradise** (S) (7/25/82/5) 11.55 **Grace under Fire** (R) (5/5/82/5) 12.10 **ITV Learning Zone**: Open University: Refining the View (T) (2/27/82/5)

1.30 **Hackers, Crackers and Worms** (R) (5/15/82/5) 2.00 **The Great Scientists and Inventors 5** (1974), 4.00 **Language: The New Get By** in Spanish Part 1 (1972), 5.00 **Business and Training: Cancer Movie** (1974/84), 5.45 **Open University: Living with Technology** (6/8/82/5)

10.00 **ITV Fear** (R) (5/2/82/5) 10.20 **Wednesday** (R) (5/2/82/5) 10.40 **Not the Jack Pudding Show**, Maureen is all croissants, her ankles popping out of her torso and genuinely crossing her ankles. The effect: Any new, one day air times voices in her head and realise she's been contacting a killer who is similarly psychopathic - and knows where she lives. Cheeky Shady can still get work (S) (7/25/82/5)

11.20 **La Paname** (R) (5/2/82/5) Madeline confronts her past (R) (5/2/82/5)

12.15 **Live and Dangerous**, Sport, sport, sport including American football, Aussie football and Asian football (S) (5/2/82/5) 12.45 **Live and Dangerous Continued** (S) (5/2/82/5) 1.15 **Football Show** (T